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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Call to Arab Voters in Israel *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
'Arafat Comments on Aqaba, Baghdad Meetings *[Cairo AL-AHRAM 24 Oct]* 3
Khalid al-Hasan on Israeli Elections, PNC *[Tunis]* 5
Comments on Israeli Elections *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
PNC Members Invited to Algiers Session *[INA]* 7
DFLP Warns Against Reviving 'Jordanian Option' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Jordan's Husayn, Mubarak Discuss Aqaba Summit 8
Mubarak on 'Understanding' 8
'Abd al-Majid Views 'Objective' 8
'Sources' on Reasons for Summit *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 24 Oct]* 8
France's Mitterand Continues Visit, Holds Talks 9
Talks With Mubarak 9
Holds News Conference 9
Mitterrand Departs 10
GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 11
Begins Talks in Cairo 11
Meets With Ghali 11
Holds News Conference 11
Indian Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Leaders 12
Received by Mubarak 12
Meets 'Abd al-Majid 12
Departs Cairo 25 Oct 12
Israel's Principle of 'Revenge' Assailed *[AL-AHRAM 24 Oct]* 12

Libya

Al-Qadhdahfi, Al-Humaydi Discuss Maghreb 13
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi, PFLP Envoys 13
PFLP Official Departs 13
Statement on Anniversary of Italian 'Aggression' 13

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Red Sea Security, Ties With Ethiopia *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 23 Oct]* 13
State Minister Salih on South, Foreign Policy *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 22 Oct]* 14
Kenya To Close Embassy Due To Dispute Over Elemi 15
Kenya Condemned for Assisting SPLA Rebels *[Dar es Salaam]* 16
DUP Representative To Meet SPLA Officials 16
Government Controls 'Major' Southern Towns 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Syria's Foreign Minister Arrives With Message 17
Hands Message to Amir *[Damascus]* 17
Makes Comments, Departs 17
Writer Views Carlucci Statements on Arms Sales *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 23 Oct]* 17

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Omani Delegation 20 Oct 18
YSP's Muhammad Departs for Syria 21 Oct 18
Mauritanian Information Minister Departs 20 Oct 18

Saudi Arabia

2d Secretary at Embassy in Turkey Assassinated *[Jerusalem]* 19
Gunmen Flee After Attack *[Bayrak Radio]* 19

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Foreign Minister Visits During Gulf Tour 19
Meets Minister of State 19
Departs for Muscat 19
Burkinabe External Relations Minister Arrives 19
Delivers Message to President 19

IRAQ

UN Chief Says Negotiations To Resume 31 Oct 20
Arab League Secretary General Visits President 20
Meets With 'Arafat, 'Aziz *[WAKH]* 20
Departs for Abu Dhabi 20
President, King Husayn Hold Phone Conversation 20
UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 26 Oct 20
Oil Minister Returns From Madrid OPEC Meetings 21
Says Agreement Reached 21
U.S. 'Failure' To Impose Sanctions Viewed 21

ISRAEL

Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Targets in Lebanon 22
IDF Reports Air Force Raids North of Al-Damur 22
Spokesman Denies Reports on Lebanon Operation 22
Rabin 'Totally' Denies Report on 'Hit Teams' 22
Police Complaint Filed Against UK Reporters 22
Lahd: Present Means 'Insufficient' for Defense 22
SLA Said Not Ready To Replace IDF in Lebanon 23
Romanian Minister Meets With Shamir, Peres 23
Eban Ends 2-Day 'Private Visit' to Prague *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Oct]* 23
Ben-Aharon: Mubarak Autonomy Remarks 'Regrettable' 23
Shamir Speaks Against Annexation of Territories *[THE NATION 26 Oct]* 24
Peres Promises Rightists May Join in Peace Talks 24
Tehiya Leader on Conditions for Coalition, Peace 24
Gaza Strip Public Leaders Send Message to PNC 24
Palestinian Leaders Comment on Aqaba Meeting *[AL-NAHAR 24 Oct]* 25
Arab Newspapers on Aqaba Talks, Peace Process 25
'Unified Arab Strategy' Needed *[AL-QUDS 23 Oct]* 25
AL-FAJR Lauds Aqaba Meeting *[23 Oct]* 25

Further on Disturbances, Casualties in Territories 26
Cars Damaged in E. Jerusalem 26
Stonethrowers Shot in W. Bank 26
E. Jerusalem School Closed 26
Girl Killed in Gaza Riot 27
Curfews Imposed on Gaza Camps 27
'Uprising' Toll Announced *[HA'OLAM HAZE 26 Oct]* 27
Firebomb Hurled at Fuel Truck in North 27
Documentation Requirements Eased in Territories 27
Arab Bank Head Comments on Closure Decision *[AL-FAJR 22 Oct]* 28
6-7 Percent Drop in 2d Quarter Investment Noted *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Oct]* 28
Business Survey Shows Economic Slowdown Continues *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Oct]* 28
Soviet General on Syrian Army, Merkava Tank *[HA'ARETZ 26 Oct]* 29
AL-FAJR Criticizes Husayn's ABC Interview *[22 Oct]* 29
AL-SHA'B Anticipates New Jordanian Cabinet *[23 Oct]* 30
'Dozens' Contract Jaundice, Hepatitis in Galilee 30

JORDAN

Information Minister on Aqaba Talks, Other Issues *[AL-DUSTUR 25 Oct]* 31
Syria's Khaddam Arrives With Al-Asad Message *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 34
Makes Comments, Leaves 34

LEBANON

Envoy Summoned To Explain Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks 35
Al-Huss Cabinet Views Arab Positions, Security *[VOM]* 35
Interior Ministry Issues Security Directive 35
Arab League's Chedli Klibi Meets Delegate *[RFL]* 35
Lebanese Forces Increase Gunboat Patrols 36
'Alleged Pressures' on Armenians Denied *[VOL]* 36
Syrian Soldiers Injured in Al-Biqa' Explosion 36
Bus Carrying Soldiers Hit 36
Bus Target of Car Bomb *[AFP]* 36
10 Syrians Injured *[RFL]* 36
Further on Israeli Military Operations 36
'Security Source' on Deployment *[VOL]* 36
Reinforcements Detailed 37
Israeli Offensive 'Imminent' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 37
Palestinian Positions Raided *[VOL]* 37
Second Raid Reported *[VOL]* 37
Fatah Positions Attacked *[AFP]* 37
Raids Result in 5 Casualties *[RFL]* 37

SYRIA

Palestinians 'Free' To Attend PNC Session *[WAKH]* 38
Khaddam Returns From 'Working Visit' to Amman 38
Radio Condemns PLO Call To Arab Voters 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Diplomats Say Party Plenum Ended in 'Chaos' *[AFP]* 39
Najibullah To Consider Release of FRG Prisoners 40
Presidential Decree on Canceling Land Tax Fines 40
Opposition Delegate Elected to Wolasi Jirgah 40

Hikmatyar Interviewed on Soviet Withdrawal, Peace *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 23 Oct]* 40
106th Note on Violations Given to UN Mission 43
U.S., Arab Advisers Killed in Paktia Operation 43
'Extremists Crushed' in Three Provinces 43
Mujahidin Down Helicopter, Beseige Qalat *[AFP]* 43
Islamabad Reports Various Mujahidin Operations 43

Bangladesh

Ershad Lifts Ban on Two Daily Newspapers 44

India

Government Concerned Over Burma Border Situation *[PATRIOT 18 Oct]* 44

Iran

Peace Talks To Resume in Geneva 'Next Week' 45
Foreign Minister Velayati on Cease-Fire Talks *[KEYHAN 13 Oct]* 45
Tehran on U.S. Visa Refusal for Official 48
Further Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Premier 49
Meets With Musavi 49
Musavi Hosts Banquet 49
Spanish Minister Meets With Majlis Speaker 50
Velayati Meets With Afghan Mujahidin Members 50
Speaker Calls for International Islamic Body 50
Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Discussions 51
President Khamene'i Continues Tour of Northwest 51
Addresses Sanandaj Gathering 51
Calls for More Cooperation 52
SAIRI Chairman Says Office To Open in Syria 52
Kurds on Hunger Strike at UNESCO Building 52
UN Group Commander Visits Khuzestan Province 53
Musavi Addresses Cooperatives Seminar 53
Majlis Deputies Discuss Economic Program *[KEYHAN 15 Oct]* 57
Editorial Views First 5-Year Economic Program *[KEYHAN 12 Oct]* 58
By-Elections in 16 Cities Set for 29 Oct 58

Pakistan

2 Injured in Islamabad Supermarket Explosion 58
Islamic Alliance Accuses Bhutto of Unfair Tactics *[AFP]* 59

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Launch New Operation in Northeast *[Delhi]* 59
Police Use Tear Gas To Quell Rioting Mobs 59
Imposition of Curfew Successfully Averts Violence 59
Colombo Curfew Lifted *[Delhi]* 59
Curfews Extended in South *[AFP]* 60

26 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2610133088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Raids—Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist targets" north of the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah refugee camp 26 October, an Israeli military spokesman announced in a statement carried by IDF radio.

AFP confirmed Israeli planes fired missiles at the outskirts of the camp and Beirut radio stated that at least 15 people were wounded in the raids, which targeted Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP positions in the area.

Israeli aircraft subsequently attacked targets in the hills northeast of Al-Damur, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Car Bomb—A car loaded with TNT exploded in the Al-Biqa' Valley 25 October, hitting a passing bus carrying Syrian soldiers, Beirut radio reported.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the explosion left 10 Syrian soldiers wounded.

AFP added that several Lebanese civilians were also injured.

Inter-Arab Contacts on Lebanon

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Jordan's King Husayn in Amman 25 October, Amman radio reported.

Khaddam noted that the message dealt with current Arab developments including the situation in Lebanon and said the two sides agreed on the importance of achieving national accord and political reforms in Lebanon.

The visit follows a recent call by the UAE for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese political crisis, according to Tunis radio.

A Jordanian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo stated that Jordan supports the call for a summit on the Lebanese crisis and will propose holding the conference in Baghdad.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn discussed "the need for an Arab initiative to help consolidate the unity of fraternal Lebanon" during talks with the Arab League secretary general, Baghdad radio noted.

In Abu Dhabi, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave the UAE president a message from Al-Asad on the situation in Lebanon, WAKH reported.

Asked by WAKH about the UAE's call for a summit, Al-Shar' expressed appreciation for the UAE's "sincere" efforts, but stressed the Lebanese crisis cannot be resolved without national accord among all Lebanese parties.

Israel

A 14-year-old girl was killed and another youth was injured 25 October when an IDF patrol opened fire to disperse a crowd in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported.

The IDF also shot two stonethrowers in Nabulus and Ramallah, the radio disclosed.

Security forces demolished four houses of youths arrested for security offenses, IDF radio reported.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "totally denied" a REUTER report that two Israeli hit teams are liquidating leaders of the uprising, Jerusalem radio reported.

The government suspended the press passes of two REUTER journalists because the story was not cleared by the military censors.

PLO Affairs

The PLO has officially invited PNC members to attend the PNC session in Algiers 12-14 November, INA reported.

Syria has informed Palestinian factions based in Damascus that they are "absolutely free" to define their stands toward participation in the session, according to a UAE press report cited by WAKH.

Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast another call for Arab citizens of Israel to use their vote for parties that support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Such appeals were denounced by Damascus radio as a "dangerous step" that will tie Palestinian rights to the fate of the Israeli Labor Party.

Among other criticism of the PLO leadership, a DFLP statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo warned of the "serious consequences" of attempts to revive the Jordanian option, while the clandestine Al-Quds radio broadcast a PNSF statement condemning the Aqaba meeting as an attempt to implement Camp David policy.

In a 23 October news conference cited by Cairo's AL-AHRAM, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat stated the tripartite meetings in Aqaba and Baghdad will be followed by further meetings and said his talks with King Husayn laid the foundations for a new relationship between Jordan and the PLO.

Jordan

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah asserted that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are now "on the right course" but he stressed Jordan believes it is too early to present a specific formula for confederation with a Palestinian state.

He also denied reports the PLO has withdrawn deposits from Jordanian banks, thereby precipitating the fall in the value of Jordanian currency.

Such "rumors" are circulated by those who do not want to see good relations between Jordan and the PLO, he contended.

In Jerusalem, the Arabic paper AL-SHA'B predicted that King Husayn will shortly form a new cabinet to deal with the fall in the Jordanian dinar and the general economic "collapse."

On Jordan's defense procurement, the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD reported Jordan has received several British-made C-711 radar stations to bolster its air defenses.

Saudi Arabia

The second secretary of the Saudi Embassy in Turkey was assassinated in Ankara 25 October, Jerusalem radio reported.

The Saudi ambassador said he did not believe the secretary was killed for personal reasons, adding that his embassy had received threats during the hajj season.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak received visiting French President Francois Mitterrand 25 October, MENA reported.

Talks focused on the Palestinian issue, efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, and developments in Lebanon.

During a news conference after the talks, Mubarak called on all powers, including Syria, to take their hands off Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced direct negotiations between Iran and Iraq will resume in Geneva 31 October, INA reported.

Iran

Talks between Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz, who arrived for talks in Iran 25 October, centered around expanding political, economic, and cultural ties, IRNA reported.

According to Budapest radio, Grosz confirmed Hungary is ready to take an active part in Iran's reconstruction and economic development plan.

Afghanistan

Plenum—According to Western diplomats cited by AFP, the 19 October PDPA Central Committee plenum was marred by sharp differences between rival factions and "broke up in chaos."

A 3-day wave of arrests that preceded the plenum was designed to prevent dissenters from voicing opposition to President Najibullah, the diplomats said.

Kabul radio reported meanwhile that an opposition delegate was elected to the Wolasi Jerga.

U.S. Advisers Killed—Six U.S. and Arab advisers were killed in Paktia Province 25 October when resistance forces came under heavy attack, Kabul radio reported.

Hikmatyar on Talks—Resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said the Soviet Union is making moves toward direct negotiations with the mujahidin that it has not yet officially announced.

Speaking in an interview with the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD, he also reiterated the mujahidin's readiness to hold such talks with the Soviet Union but rejected the possibility of a coalition government.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Call to Arab Voters in Israel

JN2510200188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1801 GMT 25 Oct 88

["Text" of call issued by the PLO "to the Arab voter" on the occasion of the Israeli general elections—date, place not given]

[Text] The Palestinian Arab people are standing at the threshold of a new stage in their long history of struggle. The great popular uprising in the occupied territories is tolling the bells of freedom and liberty and turning the Palestinian dream of national independence into a tangible process under implementation. If the Palestinian national awareness has reached, with and by the uprising, one of the most lofty degrees of political maturity and national responsibility, then commitment to the uprising and its political aims demands that Palestinians everywhere and in every position use all their material and moral powers for the victory of the uprising, achieving its aims and expressing the national unity of the Palestinian people through words, action, and practice.

The uprising, which is one of the major revolutionary innovations in the Palestinian people's march toward freedom and independence, calls on all the sons of our hero people to join the stream of the uprising and its climate. The battle for ending the black Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, and for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, is also raging on the internal Israeli scene and on the front of Jewish awareness.

No matter the attempts by the major traditional Israeli parties to avoid the process of internal political classification on the basis of the requirements of this battle, it constitutes the essence of the general Israeli election battle. No side in the Israeli community can conceal the effect of the uprising on it.

The position that the Arab struggle and the Arab vote occupy in the Israeli community, and its possible effect on internal balances of power, has passed the stage of expressing protest and reached the stage of effectiveness and strong influence.

We are, therefore, of the view that the role of the Arab masses, whose objective circumstances have demanded that they live, struggle, and express themselves and their national culture within their special conditions, is able to move to a more revolutionary qualitative stage within the expression by these Arab masses of their national affiliation and of their effective solidarity with the aims of their people's uprising and their national rights.

This is in addition to the requirements of these masses' demographic and social struggle in defense of their daily rights and their steadfastness in the heroic survival battle against the usurpation of land, racial discrimination, and sectarian partition, in adherence to and cohesion with the sacred national soil and the unified national identity. From the special position occupied by the Arab masses in the internal Israeli machinery and what follows from it in the form of joint action with the democratic and peace powers in Israel, they have become more capable of affecting Israeli decisionmaking if they develop the use of their electoral weapons in the battle for peace which is linked to achieving these rights.

Therefore, we call on our masses, all our masses, men and women, to exercise their right in the election battle and not to make light of this right, because letting the chance of positively affecting the Israeli internal political situation slip by might diminish the effectiveness of the peaceful, progressive, and democratic Israeli powers. It might also permit the extreme rightist powers, which insist on denying our national rights, to not stop their call for deporting the Palestinians from their homeland and continue with their traditional policy of attempting to eradicate our Palestinian people.

From this position—the position of having the ability to contribute to the battle for Palestinian national independence—we believe the Arab vote in the general Israeli elections has exceptional importance if it contributes toward nourishing the Israeli parties and powers which are struggling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, which support the right of the Palestinian people to determine their fate freely and establish an independent national Palestinian state, which recognize the PLO, affirming it is the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and which call for holding an effective international conference with powers and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

We are confident our Arab masses' awareness, their political maturity, their national responsibility, and their bonds with the independence aims of their people will push them to contribute effectively in affecting the Israeli political atmosphere for the benefit of their just struggle. It will stop the futility of the Arab vote's strength which has become capable of imposing its presence and effectivenes from its special vital stand.

This historic chance is favorable for achieving independence and establishing peace. Let each and every one of us perform his role.

'Arafat Comments on Aqaba, Baghdad Meetings

JN2510180288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Oct 88 pp 3, 14

[Text] Baghdad—At a news conference in Baghdad yesterday following his meeting with President Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said: President Mubarak's visit to Baghdad, the tripartite meeting in Baghdad and the one that preceded it in Aqaba the day before yesterday will be

followed by other meetings, God willing. 'Arafat added: The good offices President Husni Mubarak has undertaken to close Arab ranks, represented in what took place in Aqaba the day before yesterday, the intensive tripartite talks which were held throughout today, and this important and swift meeting on Iraqi territory, the land of Arab steadfastness, are not only in defense of Iraq but also in defense of the entire Arab nation.

At the news conference which was attended by Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, 'Arafat said: The Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit which was held in Aqaba the day before yesterday was "positive and cordial." He explained that the discussion during this summit focused on the unique Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the importance of promoting them, particularly following the Jordanian measure on the disengagement of links with the West Bank.

'Arafat added: We have formulated the foundations for the new relationship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO in the wake of the Jordanian disengagement with the West Bank. He pointed out that other meetings will be held, particularly that the Palestinian delegation which stayed behind in Amman will follow up the details of these talks.

'Arafat explained that the Palestinian delegation which is currently in Amman will not only discuss the problems resulting from the disengagement but will also discuss the dimension and scope of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. He added this has many meanings with respect to the course of events in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, the coordination of the Jordanian and Palestinian efforts, as well as the coordination of efforts between Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq for the confrontation of all the challenges the Arab nation is facing and for the attainment of a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis and its central cause, the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat added that following up the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Aqaba with this blessed visit to victorious Baghdad means much for our Arab masses, particularly as I bring glad tidings to you that media campaigns between Egypt and Libya were suspended as of yesterday.

'Arafat said President Mubarak and King Husayn preferred to hold the tripartite meeting in Aqaba where they formulated the basic broadlines for pushing the peace process ahead by speeding up the convocation of an international conference and acting with all the parties concerned with the international conference, particularly as November will witness important events, such as the convocation of the PNC session, the discussion of the Palestinian cause by the United Nations, and the Israeli elections.

Referring to the Israeli elections, 'Arafat said: We issued two important statements yesterday, the first addressed to the Arab voter who holds Israeli citizenship, calling on him to participate in these elections. By doing so, he can give momentum to the peace process. The second statement is addressed to the Israeli voter asking him whether he will opt for peace or war.

Yasir 'Arafat said that through the Arab voters' participation in the Israeli elections, one could secure at least 14 or 15 seats in the Knesset. He emphasized this would have its effect on the configuration of any future government.

With respect to the statement addressed to the Israeli voter and asking him to vote for peace and not war, Yasir 'Arafat addressed the Israeli voters by telling them that the Palestinian command and the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising have decided not to use weapons in spite of all the barbaric acts the Jewish settlers, the Israeli army, and the police are carrying out.

'Arafat added: We tell them we will not use weapons. I hope they will not view this as being a weak point on our part. This is only to give the Israeli voter the chance of realizing that the road to peace and not the road to war and blood is best for our children.

In his press conference, Yasir 'Arafat stressed the importance of the talks held in Aqaba yesterday during the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit and pointed out the dialogue conducted during that summit was enriching and intensive, as this dialogue tackled in detail many issues.

'Arafat said he put the Jordanian monarch in the picture regarding the four Palestinian options and added he listened to his opinions and also to the opinions voiced by President Husni Mubarak in this regard. He said the dialogue was enriching and intensive, as it tackled in detail many issues that were discussed. 'Arafat went on to say that all Palestinian and Arab parties have been so far convinced of the need to fill the vacuum brought about by Jordan's disengagement of ties with the West Bank.

He said they are also convinced this must be done through launching the initiative of proclaiming a Palestinian state on the occupied territories. However, 'Arafat added that Arab and Palestinian interpretations and explanations only pertain to the timing and tactics involved in this—the timing and tactics which can be used in this regard.

The Palestinian leader went on to say there are some proposals which stipulate that we must first of all focus on securing international protection for the occupied territories.

'Arafat affirmed the final say in this regard lies with the PNC, indicating he is a democratic man who cherishes democracy. In his press conference, Yasir 'Arafat said he

felt that the Jordanian monarch welcomes any option that might be chosen by the Palestinians. He pointed out King Husayn repeated this more than once telling him "I will work with you to entrench this option."

'Arafat said if a decision were to be taken on the formation of a Palestinian government, it must have a political program. Otherwise, he added, how can it win a vote of confidence? It must win a vote of confidence, just as I won a vote of confidence based on the program I submitted to the PNC.

The Palestinian leader also talked about the advantages of the option involving the provision of international protection for the occupied territories and said: We are calling for the immediate provision of temporary international protection so we can end the continuing aggressions being perpetrated by the Israeli military gangs, whether these aggressions are being committed by the Israeli army, by armed Israeli settlers, by the Israeli police, or by Israeli laws which contravene the principles which governed the Nuremberg trials. In this regard, he referred to the threats of extermination which have been recently voiced by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

'Arafat added: Our kinfolk are protecting Israeli children when the Israelis open fire on our children in Palestinian camps. 'Arafat added that the tripartite Aqaba Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit has given a strong impetus on the Arab level for an international peace conference. Hence, no one will be excused if he chooses to place obstacles saying there is no unified Arab stand.

'Arafat went on to say: Right now, there is a unified Arab stand that was affirmed in Aqaba yesterday and is being affirmed in Baghdad today. The other party is required to choose the pursuit of either war or peace. In this regard, he affirmed there was an Iraqi blessing and an Iraqi affirmation of support voiced at the tripartite Egyptian-Iraqi-Palestinian meeting which was held in Baghdad yesterday for what has been reached at the tripartite Aqaba meeting.

The Palestinian leader voiced regret over the collaboration of Syrian forces with the Amal Movement in shelling Palestinian forces in the Sidon camps in southern Lebanon yesterday.

'Arafat also spoke on the international Middle East peace conference and said: All parties accept an international conference right now. Even the United States has begun to say yes to an international conference since the materialization of the summit held between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, albeit with a U.S. perspective of that conference.

'Arafat added there is also a part of the Israeli leadership which approves the notion of convening an international conference. However, he said this part of the Israeli leadership has also its own vision regarding that conference.

Concluding his press conference, Yasir 'Arafat announced that King Husayn of Jordan proposed that an extraordinary Arab summit be held in Baghdad on the occasion of the Iraqi forces' victory and also to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

'Arafat said: I supported this proposal which also won the support of both President Husni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. As for the ordinary Arab summit, it will be held in Riyadh.

'Arafat added: Earlier, I was on visits to Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco. I also visited the YAR and the PDRY. He added he had previous knowledge of his visit to Jordan.

'Arafat pointed out anew that the Palestinian delegation will stay in Jordan to coordinate the relationship and to also attend meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

Khalid al-Hasan on Israeli Elections, PNC

LD2410135388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, held a news conference in Tunis during which two appeals were addressed to the Arab electorate in Israel and to the Jewish electorate on the occasion of the Israeli elections.

Mr Khalid al-Hasan confirms the appeals in this statement which he gave to the news department:

[Begin recording] For the Arab electorate: Firstly, exercise the right to vote and do not abstain. Secondly, vote for the forces which support peace according to the ideas espoused by the PLO.

For the Jewish electorate: The slogan presented to them is that the Israeli power policy has proven to be a failure and that the road to peace is not through war but through recognizing the Palestinian existence and Palestinian reality. We place before them a choice: When they vote, they choose between war and peace. [end recording]

Answering a question about the date of holding the PNC session, Mr Khalid al-Hasan pointed out that the PNC will be held from 12 to 15 November in Algeria, and that the two issues, proclaiming an independent Palestinian state and forming a Palestinian Government, are among the issues to be presented to the session.

Comments on Israeli Elections

JN2410184988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1707 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, head of the PNC's Foreign and Parliamentary Relations Committee, by an unidentified correspondent in Tunis on 24 October—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] As you announced in Tunis today, the PLO clearly interferes in the Israeli elections. The PLO calls on the Israeli voter, whether he is a Jew or an Arab, to vote for peace. Who represents peace in Israel?

[Al-Hasan] First of all, I do not view this call as interference in the elections. This call is the expression of a political voice that penetrates the Zionist media which

says the PLO is against peace. The second point is that there are two calls. The first call is addressed to the Palestinian Arab voter in the Zionist entity. This voter has been accustomed to boycotting the elections in the past because there were no parties that expressed his viewpoints or those of the PLO with respect to this voter's civil, democratic, political, and national rights. He had all the reasons and the right to boycott the elections.

But now new forces have emerged which participate in the elections. These forces call for equal civil and democratic rights for all in the Zionist entity, for a withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, and for the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Therefore, there is a need now to remind our people in the occupied homeland that they must exercise their right and support this new voice which agrees politically with the PLO on the question of withdrawal, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the right to self-determination and which also struggles for the recognition of equal civil and democratic rights for Palestinian Arabs and Arab Jews who are viewed as second- class citizens.

There are some 360,000 Arab voters. Therefore, they can have a noticeable influence on the elections if they unite around the same stand and vote in favor of these new forces which have emerged and which call for equality in Israel, for the withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and [word indistinct], and for the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.t

[Correspondent] Do you not fear the result will be completely the opposite, that is, the PLO's interference in the Israeli elections in this manner will make a large number of those who are hesitant vote in the opposite direction than the PLO wants by voting in favor of Shamir and the Likud?

[Al-Hasan] If the PLO's call to the Palestinian Arab voter, the Jewish Arab voter, and the non-Arab Jewish voter to vote for peace ideas, an international conference, and the attainment of a just political solution to the Palestinian people's cause tips the balance in favor of the Likud in the elections, then this will further clarify matters to the international public and show them the Israelis do not want an international conference and peace, but war. Whether this or what we seek to achieve takes place, the Palestinian struggle will benefit in either case. [Correspondent] In the past, you used to say Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir, that is the Labor and Likud parties, are equal regarding the peace and war processes. Can it be understood you have a clear preference for Peres today?

[Al-Hasan] There is no preference at all for Peres or Shamir. So far, both of them have been adopting a line hostile to the PLO and to the conception of a political solution which aims to establish a peace based on justice. Consequently, the stand is the same as was in the past [words indistinct] the partial differences between the two parties.

[Correspondent] The Palestinian side has been moving along various axes recently, particularly toward Amman—or Amman has been moving toward the Palestinian side since it is the same thing. There are some queries about stands. King Husayn declared disengagement of relations with the West Bank, leaving Palestinian affairs to the PLO. But today there is talk about coordination, federation or confederation, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and so on. If this is the real situation, then, frankly speaking, why was there a divorce between Amman and the West Bank?

[Al-Hasan] There was no divorce between Amman and the West Bank. Amman canceled the administrative, financial, and legal relations with the West Bank. This was an extremely positive political stand for the PLO if we link this matter to the issue of Palestinian representation at an international conference. This is because this move terminated the dispute over representation or the sharing of representation. Hence, there is no longer any party in the Palestinian arena which can represent all Palestinians except for the PLO. We will adopt this political move for the positive aspects it contains.

As for coordination with Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and other Arab states, this is an issue dictated by interest, by the logic of Arab solidarity, and by the logic—which we have frequently repeated—that the Palestinian train in the international arena needs an Arab engine whose fuel will be international alliances and which will be based on Arab solidarity. Consequently, coordination with Jordan—if not for any other reason except geography which has its own dictatorship—will be a necessary issue and not a matter to be chosen or not. Likewise, our future relations with Jordan—considering them as proceeding toward confederation—are also a matter dictated by necessity and not a matter to be chosen or rejected.

[Correspondent] It is said that some of the current moves are due to electoral considerations. Supposing this is true and that Peres has not won or will not win Israeli elections so that either Shamir or both of them remains in office, what will be the outcome of this move?

[Al-Hasan] Our move will continue until an international conference is held, regardless of the outcome of Israeli elections. However, if what you have said actually takes place then it will be the responsibility of both superpowers to deal with the Zionist enemy's leadership regarding participation in an international conference and the bases of this participation.

PNC Members Invited to Algiers Session

JN2510180888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—The PLO has officially invited the PNC members to attend the PNC extraordinary session, which will be held in Algiers 12-14 October [as received].

'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO office director in Baghdad, told INA that the council will discuss the political options produced by the Palestinian uprising. He said the political and legal committee came up with four options for the PNC to discuss. These options are: First, the proclamation of a Palestinian state and a provisional government; second, the proclamation of a Palestinian state; third, the formation of a provisional government; and fourth, placing the occupied Palestinian territories under UN trusteeship for an interim period until the question is settled.

He added the PNC will also discuss means of supporting the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

DFLP Warns Against Reviving 'Jordanian Option'

JN2510133588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The DFLP issued a statement today on the Aqaba meeting among King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, and Mr Yasir 'Arafat. The statement says textually:

The DFLP warns against the serious consequences of responding to Washington's direct pressure on its allies in the Arab region to revive the Jordanian option. The DFLP considers that the endeavors to revive the Jordanian option and return to the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation aim to undermine the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and prevent the arrival at a political stand that responds to the interests of the Palestinian uprising.

Egypt

Jordan's Husayn, Mubarak Discuss Aqaba Summit

NC2510210888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan telephoned President Husni Mubarak this evening. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Arab issue in continuation of their consultations in Aqaba earlier this week.

Mubarak on 'Understanding'

NC2510132088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Ismailia, 25 Oct (MENA)—Responding to a question from a correspondent of the FRG television network ARD about a confederation between Jordan and the PLO, President Mubarak said: They are in agreement about confederation. There are no differences on this.

The president repeated that there are no differences between the PLO and Jordan about confederation. They are in agreement on it, he said, even at the last meeting that took place. Thus, there is no problem.

He added: We all want efforts to be made to convene an international conference. This is the most important thing.

President Mubarak expressed his hope that all international efforts will be made within the international conference so that peace can be established.

Concluding his statements to newsmen, President Mubarak said: I can say to you that there is a common understanding between King Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. We held four closed meetings, and two others in the presence of the three delegations. I think there is more understanding now between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, and I thank God for that.

Asked whether he will seek to revive the Egyptian-French plan at the Security Council, President Mubarak said: I cannot say anything right now. I will meet with President Mitterrand now. When there is a need to revive the plan, we will do that.

'Abd al-Majid Views 'Objective'

NC2510162588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] London, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denied that the Aqaba tripartite talks were convened in an attempt to influence the Israeli voter, noting that President Husni Mubarak always has been in favor of close Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to further the peace process. 'Abd al-Majid stated that the aim of the meeting which President Husni Mubarak arranged in Aqaba between King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat was the realization of this objective. 'Abd al-Majid made these statements while being interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Asked whether the idea of forming a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state is an attempt to surmount the difficulty of PLO representation at peace talks, 'Abd al-Majid said that this idea has been suggested since the February 1985 agreement and is now a possibility which both parties accept.

Regarding reports about a Soviet role in the recent Arab moves, 'Abd al-Majid said that, according to his information, although the Soviet Union is thinking along the same lines followed by Arab countries, it has not played any role in the recent moves.

'Sources' on Reasons for Summit

JN2510204988 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Oct 88 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] Cairo—Egyptian sources have disclosed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM the details of and the reason for holding the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit in Aqaba. The sources explained that the U.S. Administration has informed Egypt that it will not recognize any independent Palestinian state that will be proclaimed by the PNC in its session to be held next month, and that President Husni Mubarak has communicated this U.S. stand to Yasir 'Arafat while pointing out that Washington is ready to recognize a Palestinian state that is united with Jordan.

The sources said that Egypt informed the PLO and Jordan of this U.S. stand after which Jordanian-Palestinian contacts were held through Egypt to discuss how to achieve unity between the expected Palestinian state and Jordan.

President Mubarak then proposed to Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn to hold a meeting on this. It was agreed to hold the summit in Aqaba. The Egyptian sources explained to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Jordan and the PLO agreed to open a new page in their relations and to define their future relationship.

The sources said that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will participate in the international conference following the proclamation of a confederation between the two sides, and that the formation of this delegation is to bypass the rejection by the United States and Israel of the participation of an independent Palestinian delegation in the negotiations.

The sources said that contacts are underway to hold an emergency Arab summit following the PNC session to bless the new Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and proceed with peace on the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian

agreement. The sources said that most of the Arab countries blessed the Aqaba summit and President Mubarak's efforts to close Arab ranks at this stage. [passage omitted]

France's Mitterand Continues Visit, Holds Talks

Talks With Mubarak

NC2510160088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and French President Francois Mitterrand held a 45-minute session of talks while cruising the Suez Canal. During the cruise, President Mitterrand saw the Suez Canal's development projects.

The two president later headed to the Al-Fursan rest house, where they held another session of talks interrupted by a working lunch.

The talks between the two presidents focused on the most important developments in the Palestinian issue, the Egyptian efforts to achieve Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the efforts to convene the international peace conference, and the developments in the Lebanese crisis, as well as the developments in the peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

Holds News Conference

NC2510191288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Ismailia, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has called on all powers, including Syria, to take their hands off Lebanon, stressing that there can be no solution to the Lebanese problem without all foreign powers lifting their hands off it.

This call came in a news conference which President Mubarak and French President Francois Mitterrand held in Ismailia on the occasion of the French president's visit to Egypt today.

President Mubarak noted that many initiatives in the arena have been launched with the aim of establishing peace and described the Camp David formula as "outdated."

During the news conference, President Mitterrand said that he cannot envisage any solution to the Palestinian problem without a dialogue among the leaders of the parties to the conflict.

President Mubarak opened the news conference with a statement welcoming the French president. He said:

"Brother President Mitterrand: I welcome you on Egypt's soil on this visit of several hours which has a deep meaning for us and for all Egyptians. Despite its short duration, your visit shows the depth of relations between Egypt and France and the close cooperation that exists between the two countries. Your visit comes after your reelection as president of the French Republic to a second term. We are glad for this. Your visit also comes just prior to your birthday which falls tomorrow, Wednesday. On behalf of the Egyptian people and on behalf of myself, I congratulate President Mitterrand on these two occasions and wish Egyptian-French relations under the presidency of Brother Mitterrand every success and progress."

In his reply, President Mitterrand said: "I thank President Mubarak for the kind words he has spoken about me. I also thank him for his congratulations on my birthday and on my reelection, though my reelection is more important than my birthday." He added: "I am very pleased to have made this visit, which is my first visit outside France since May. I offer this visit as evidence to President Mubarak and to the Egyptian people of my belief in them. That is what I did during my first term in office. We are living here in a humane and civilized atmosphere that expresses a bright future for Egypt." He stressed that relations between Egypt and France are extremely good, that bilateral cooperation continues, and that there are no difficulties in this domain.

President Mitterrand further said: "I held a dialogue with President Mubarak during the past few hours, during which he briefed me on the recent talks in Aqaba and the talks between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. We discussed several issues, particularly the region's problems. We also touched on the situation in Asia, especially the truce betwen Iran and Iraq, which I would like to call peace rather than truce." He added: "We discussed the tragic situation Lebanon is currently passing through and the problems in north and south Africa, and reviewed the situation in general, primarily the debt problem."

Asked about the importance of the recent talks in Aqaba, Mitterrand said: I believe that the talks among the three leaders are useful and that President Mubarak used his influence in this regard. He went on to say: "I already have said that I support any useful dialogue. President Mubarak has succeeded in resuming the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, which had broken off some years ago. I cannot imagine any solution to the Palestinian problem without dialogue between these leaders. I believe that these efforts are extremely positive, and, as I said before, they may achieve progress through an international conference to which we look forward. Progress may be achieved gradually," he said.

Asked about the possibility of convening a preparatory committee for an international conference, which he and Soviet leader Gorbachev chair, Mitterrand said: "We did not discuss this topic in our talks today. Regarding my dialogue with Gorbachev, President Mubarak and I did discuss this issue. The region's leaders, however, must examine this issue. We did not discuss any aspects

relating to the convening of such a conference, but this can take place within the framework of consultations among the Security Council members.

Responding to a question on the current tense situation in Lebanon and the current initiatives, President Mitterrand said: I am not aware of any new initiatives in the Lebanese arena, but I do reiterate my position on the need to preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Responding to the same question, President Mubarak said: I have reaffirmed my views on this issue several times: There can be no solution to the Lebanese problem unless all foreign forces take their hands off that country and leave the Lebanese alone to decide for themselves. The Lebanese are capable of solving their problem, but as long as non-Lebanese, be they Syrians or others, interfere, the problem will continue to exacerbate until Lebanon is finished. We tell all parties to take their hands off that country. I call on the Arab League, and particularly the Arab nation to meet at summit level to dot the I's and cross the t's of this sensitive Arab issue.

If the Arab nation does not decide to convene a summit, I ask when will such a meeting be held? Lebanon is experiencing a disastrous situation and a trend to partition it. There has been bitter fighting in Lebanon for years. All of these reasons make it incumbent upon the Arab world to convene a summit at which all cards will be placed on the table and all aspects of the issue will be discussed. These discussions must be extremely candid. There should be no fear of this or that party or any consideration of the sensitivity of this or that side. Without this, there can be no solution to the Lebanese issue.

Asked whether he believes that the recent rapprochement between President Mubarak and the Arab leaders will lead to progress on the issue of an international conference, the French president said: "I believe that is progress."

Asked whether France accepts the notion of the establishment of a Palestinian state on the basis of UN Resolution No 181, President Mitterrand said: "I believe that we should become fully informed about this issue before making statements."

Commenting on the same question, President Mubarak said: "If we want to talk about Resolution No 181 and concentrate on it only, then doubts will be raised in Israel. We must know what the borders of this state will be. Supposedly, we must know the borders when a 'separate state' is proclaimed; otherwise, the Israelis would be suspicious that it is a state that encompasses all of Israel and the problem would become more and more complicated."

Asked whether the talks dealt with the situation in the occupied Arab territories, President Mitterrand said: "We have in fact dealt with all elements of the current problem."

Responding to a question on how Yitzhaq Shamir should be dealt with if the Likud should win in the coming election, particularly in light of Shamir's declaration that he would accept the Camp David formula as a solution to the issue if he wins, President Mubarak said:

"If Yitzhaq Shamir wins the election, it will be the Israeli people who made him win, and if he fails, it will be the Israeli people who made him fail. We do not make one succeed or fail. We will deal with the government chosen by the Israeli people. As to Shamir's talk about Camp David, he had rejected it in the past, had frozen it in our talks but is now telling me: I am against Camp David. He also says that Israel wants to talk on the basis of Camp David. Shamir was the one who had changed the spirit of Camp David; as the former U.S. President said in Israel, 'You have changed the Camp David spirit.'"

President Mubarak asked Shamir: "Why did you not agree to the Camp David accord in the Israeli Knesset? Why did you act to freeze it when you were foreign minister? Why did Camp David become important for you when you became prime minister?"

President Mubarak noted that many initiatives have now been launched in the arena and described the Camp David formula as outdated. He added that we have frozen it, but blamed Shamir for this. He added that Shamir should not be asking us for it now.

Asked about the formula for resolving the Palestinian problem which he, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat have agreed on, President Mubarak said: "The solution to the Palestinian problem is clear and does not need any formula. The Palestinian problem can be resolved if the parties concerned are eager to reach a solution. I believe that there is scope for a solution and we must all work in that direction. The solution is not a problem. There is an international conference and we all must rally around to have it held. The Palestinians themselves must agree on the issue of an international conference, and when the Arabs agree on the concept of holding such a conference, it will get off the ground. The negotiations will lead us to a just solution, God willing. How else could the Palestinian issue be resolved? Everyone must work for a solution and must exert efforts. The intentions toward the solution must be real ones and in the direction of the international conference."

Mitterrand Departs

NC2510164788 Cairo MENA in English 1642 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Ismailia, Oct. 25 (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand left here this evening after a short visit to Egypt during which he had talks with President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East issue and the prospects of convening international peace conference.

The two leaders also reviewed means to achieve peace in the Gulf region and the future of relations between Egypt and France.

President Mitterrand was seen off at Abu Suwayr air base by President Husni Mubarak and other senior state officials.

GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

NC2210222888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2209 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt expected to last several days. Ambassador Sami Haybah, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, received him at the airport.

Begins Talks in Cairo

NC2410163988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and the GDR began at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today. The talks are being chaired by Ambassador Sami Haybah, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, and Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The head of the GDR delegation stated that his country strongly denounces the policy of violence practised by Israel against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and supports the Palestinian people's efforts and struggle to regain their legitimate national rights. He reported that during the meeting the situation in the Middle East was reviewed in light of Egyptian efforts to attain peace. He added that the views of the two countries were idential with regard to resolving problems and disputes in Africa and Asia by peaceful means. The GDR official also lauded the relations between Egypt and his country.

It should be recalled that the GDR delegation arrived in Cairo on Sunday [as received] evening on a visit expected to last several days.

Meets With Ghali

NC2510120988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1138 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received today Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Egypt. Ways to consolidate bilateral relations were discussed. Dr Ghali said the meeting falls within the context of traditional relations between the two countries, which contribute to the service of international security and peace and to the mutual interest of Egypt and the GDR. Attending the meeting was the GDR ambassador in Cairo, Wolfgang Almeda [name as received].

Holds News Conference

NC2510220888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, has reaffirmed his country's principled stand on the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future and establish their independent state. At a news conference in Cairo this evening following the conclusion of his talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ambassador Sami Haybah, assistant foreign minister, the GDR official said that the views of both countries are identical regarding the importance of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East and condemning the violent policy pursued by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

The GDR official said that he was informed about the Egyptian initiatives to resolve the Middle East problem, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and Egypt's stand on the current negotiations to settle the situation in the region. He welcomed the improvement of relations between Ethiopia and both Sudan and Somalia. He stressed his country's support for Namibia's independence and elimination of the policy of racist discrimination in South Africa. Heinz-Dieter also expressed his country's support for the African Frontline states against the destablization policy being pursued by the South African Government.

The GDR official pointed out that his talks with the Egyptian officials dealt with ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in all spheres. He noted that an agreement is expected to be signed on a new bilateral program. He stressed that economic and trade cooperation between Egypt and the GDR will witness a strong boost in the near future, adding that there is an intention to sign an agreement between the two countries on transport, post, and telephone. The GDR official noted the visit which People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub will make to Berlin within the next few days.

The GDR official denied his country's intention to recognize Israel, stressing that the establishment of relations with Israel is linked to a just solution to the Palestinian issue. He praised the relaxation currently prevailing in international relations, noting that such an atmosphere will help consolidate the policy being pursued by the GDR and the Eastern bloc to continue disarmament and the elimination of nuclear arms from the Atlantic ocean up to the Ural Mountains and the creation of a nuclear-free zone in central Europe.

Heinz-Dieter is scheduled to leave Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, for Kuwait following a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Indian Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Leaders

NC2210193588 Cairo MENA in English 1808 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 22 (MENA)—Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali had talks with his visiting Indian counterpart.

They discussed bilateral relations and each party's stance on international and regional issues especially those confronting the Nonaligned Movement as a result of new variables on the international arena, the rapprochement between the two super powers and the emergence of new challenges before the nonaligned countries, represented in debt and environment problems, within the context of preparing for the 9th Nonaligned Summit due to be held next September.

The Egyptian minister underscored that the Egypto-Indian talks have made it clear that there was a basic agreement in the policy of the two countries regarding the importance of a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem with emphasis on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Received by Mubarak

NC2410141988 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 24—(MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi. Visiting Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K. K. Tiwari conveyed the message to the president.

Tiwari told reporters, following the meeting, that they discussed issues of joint interest and that President Mubarak asked him to convey a message to Ghandi. He assured the president, on his part, that India welcomes him anytime.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs, and S. K. Bhutani, Indian ambassador to Egypt, attended the meeting.

Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC2410202888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Kamala Tiwari, Indian minister of state for external affairs, who arrived in Cairo on 21 October.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways of promoting Egyptian-Indian relations in all spheres. They also reviewed the two countries' positions on international and regional issues of mutual interest, the changes which the Nonaligned Movement is encountering on the international scene as a result of the superpower rapprochement, and the problems confronting the movement's member states, particularly with regard to foreign debts.

They also discussed the major issues which will be submitted to the 9th nonaligned summit due to be held in Belgrade next September.

Departs Cairo 25 Oct

NC2510101088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—K. K. Tiwari, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Egypt. In a predeparture statement, he said he had held friendly talks with Egyptian officials dealing with bilateral relations, and that he had conveyed a message from the Indian prime minister to President Husni Mubarak. He added that the Egyptian president has asked him to convey his heartfelt greetings to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, emphasizing the good relations between the two countries.

Israel's Principle of 'Revenge' Assailed

JN2610091288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Oct 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Policy of Revenge"]

[Text] Israel has been indiscriminately applying the principle of killing or wounding dozens for each one killed or wounded from its Armed Forces. This is an old Israeli principle which it has followed since its establishment. This may be due to the siege in which it found itself at the beginning and which forced it to follow the principle of launching pre-emptive strikes.

At one time, and during Begin's era, Israel held the PLO resonsible for any harm done to any Jew in the world, let alone the Israeli Jews, be it in terms of Jewish personnel, families, or property, thus justifying retaliatory measures anywhere regardless of the consequences and no matter how disproportionate this retaliatory act may seem compared with the original cause. Even though such incidents have not occurred for years and despite the peace trends that appeared and were entrenched on the Palestinian side, the international resolutions, and the world consensus on the need to resort to peaceful negotiations to solve outstanding issues by meeting the rights of all concerned, Israel continues to uphold the princple of armed retaliation in Arab areas under its occupation or domination particularly in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Had it been fair-minded, Israel would have realized that by leaving the territories it has occupied by force and the areas it annexed unilaterally in violation of all the noble international laws, rules, and conventions and against the movement of history itself, it will be pursuing the only course to spare itself and its sons the woes of war

and to break the evil cycle of revenge and counterrevenge. It is obvious that the suffering Israel has been undergoing is a result of this ancient instinct. It is of its own making and a consequence of a reasoning to which a group of its officials have been clinging.

And while the call for peace has split the Israeli ranks from top to bottom, the daily, savage practices of certain politicians and officials are exacerbating this split despite internal and external warnings, including appeals by some of the military elite who experienced the futility of the previous wars and reached the conclusion that these wars deal the greatest harm to the Israelis themselves.

It is hoped that this new realization will figure in the upcoming Israeli elections, giving impetus to the argument that ending the occupation by negotiations is the only road to peace and immunity from the evils of revenge.

Libya

Al-Qadhdahfi, Al-Humaydi Discuss Maghreb

LD2510160488 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, who will take part in the meetings of the Maghreb Supreme Committee due to be held in sisterly Morocco to study the outcome of the meetings of the Maghreb [word indistinct] Committees to find a unified formula that ensures the accomplishment of the ambitions and aspirations of the sons of the Arab people in the western Arab homeland to establish a frontierless Arab Maghreb on the road of the pan-Arab unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi, PFLP Envoys

LD2510153688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Dr 'Ali al-Hadithi, charge d'affaires of the Iraqi Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah. He also received Brother Taysir Quba'h, member of the PFLP Political Bureau.

PFLP Official Departs

LD2510185188 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Taysir Quba'h, Politburo member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has left Tripoli today after concluding his visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Statement on Anniversary of Italian 'Aggression'

LD2110153388 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [Oct] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has released the following statement to the people's congresses:-

—Stressing what has been resolved by the Basic People's Congresses on the necessity that the present state of Italy hold its historical responsibilities on eliminating the effects of the unjust colonialist aggression started in 1911 to continue for 30, [sentence as received]

—Commemorating the anniversary of our fathers and forefathers who sustained martyrdom in the battle field, who either died by hanging at the hands of the Italians or physically liquidated in the prisons of injustice and aggression,

—Glorifying the anniversary of tens of thousands of Libyans who were focibly exiled to uninhabited islands to be tortured and killed whom nothing has been heard of ever since their exile..,

—The anniversary of the 26th October 1911 from which the campaigns of exile and displacement of our fathers and forefathers started, is a day of sorrow and mourning.

On this day the flags will be hung at half-mast and work will be stopped for minutes apart from the stoppage of communications.

Being committed to commemorate this sad anniversary of that sad and black day depends on the redeeming by the Libyan Arab people of its full rights and from any manner from Italy by which aggression launched to continue for long years liquidating half of the Libyan population.

The General Secretariat of the General People's Congress while releasing this statement addresses the rank and file of the People's Congresses to make this sad anniversary up to the level of the gravity of that sad day.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Red Sea Security, Ties With Ethiopia

JN2510135588 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 16

["Second part" of interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jawhari] Mr Prime Minister, do you believe that the level of relations between Aden and Addis Ababa is currently conducive to Aden's mediation to settle your affairs with Ethiopia?

[Al-Mahdi] Our relations with Addis Ababa are now direct and need no mediation. We are currently discussing our problems with Ethiopia directly. I believe that PDRY-Ethiopian relations have witnessed tense circumstances since the 13 January 1986 incidents, which led to toppling former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. However, I believe that they have reached a kind of understanding.

[Al-Jawhari] Understanding or coexistence?

[Al-Mahdi] I believe understanding. However, in our talks with Ethiopia we did not speak about a PDRY role, but about the need for a comprehensive Arab action regarding the Red Sea security not as an isolated case, but as an integrated whole.

[Al-Jawhari] Could you specify your concept of Red Sea security?

[Al-Mahdi] This issue will be discussed with the parties concerned. However, the most important issue is that we all agree that the Red Sea security is a common issue among all the Red Sea littoral states. We all, as forces living on its coast, should realize that our actions affect the Red Sea security and the security of each of us. Therefore, we need to set rules and political convictions that would guarantee a minimum level of Red Sea security. Sudan or any other party cannot set the details.

However, we should all agree that we all live on the coast of one sea, that our actions affect our security, negatively or positively, and that we need to adopt stands to protect the Red Sea security, prevent it from entering into strategic conflicts, guarantee the freedom of all sides' right to navigation, and prevent its polarization in international conflicts.

Through these convictions we want to reach agreements in accordance with which we will be able to protect the freedom of navigation in this sea, prevent its involvement in international conflicts, and stress that there are common security interests among all the Red Sea littoral states—interests that govern these states' actions in a manner that would not cause harm to the interests of others or lead to any kind of polarization that would undermine peace and stability in the region.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you attach importance to modernizing and arming the Armed Forces in light of the plan that was presented to you by the commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces? What sources of arms are you considering, and do you need spare parts for your Soviet-made arms following a long interruption of your armament relations with Moscow?

[Al-Mahdi] We give priority to arming and supporting the Armed Forces. This is because you cannot achieve development or anything of this kind without achieving security. No one can say this is wrong. However, the sources of Sudan's arms are basically intrinsic, in addition to some brothers and friends. [sentence as published] We do not concentrate on a specific military technology. We take it from wherever it is available in the world. [passage omitted]

State Minister Salih on South, Foreign Policy

JN2510191988 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Khartoum—Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted to AL-ITTIHAD that Sudan cannot confirm or deny recent reports that Israeli experts had participated in the current battles between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the rebel movement in the south and that one of the Israeli officers was injured.

He said: "We have no material evidence. But the recent revival and moves in the operation areas indicate that the support the movement is receiving is greater than its actual capability. Our sources think that such support must have come from Israel."

Regarding recent reports that Chadian forces entered Sudanese territories from the Darfur border area, the Sudanese minister said that relations with Chad are improving and that there are no essential differences. He said that he believes what took place is no more than violations or repercussions of the Chadian-Libyan war in the past. He said that our security information says that some Chadian groups trespassed the border but this information does not say that these are regular groups affiliated with the Chadian Government forces. We have no information on the presence of any forces other than the Ibn 'Umar Forces.

Asked why the technical Sudanese-Chadian committee did not reach an agreement during their recent meeting in Khartoum on the presence of Ibn 'Umar Forces [in Sudan], the Sudanese minister said the Chadian delegation was not authorized to reach such an agreement.

On Ethiopian-Sudanese relations and to what extent Ethiopia links the solution to the southern problem with reaching a solution to the Eritrean issue, the Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs said that relations between the two countries are improving, but not as much as we hoped. He added that contacts continued between the two countries on the level of scientific committees. We believe that some success has been reached. He added that these meetings are preliminary to prepare a basis for holding a summit between Al-Sadiq and Mengistu to end the existing problems.

Taj al-Sirr added: With regard to considering the Eritrean tragedy and the problem of southern Sudan an obstacle to any progress in the bilateral talks, the Sudanese authorities explained to the Ethiopians that the Eritrean issue and the rebel People's Movement should be tackled apart from the issue of bilateral relations. He

added: Therefore, within this framework we accepted the Ethiopian initiative to embark on a mediation role and we conveyed this initiative to the Eritrean factions. So far, we have not received a complete reaction from the Eritreans within this framework.

On the agreement reached recently between the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] delegation led by Ahmad al-Husayn and the Garang movement, Taj al-Sirr said this agreement concurs with the efforts and preparations embarked on by the Foreign Ministry to achieve peace in the south. He added that it is a very big achievement that gave momentum to the issue particularly since this agreement should be implemented in a limited period of time. A meeting should be held within 3 weeks to announce the agreement and the constitutional conference should be held before the end of this year.

On the deteriorating Kenyan-Sudanese relations, the senior Sudanese official said: The Foreign Ministry has information affirming that the Garang movement has an office in Nairobi to collect aid and relief. However, the office mission developed and the movement appointed a political officer in the office, thereby affirming that the movement has political activity in Kenya. He said that Kenya fears that the democratic system in Sudan will extend to Kenya through the Kenyan Muslims who are not few in number.

Hence, they cooperated with the People's Movement under Garang. We believe that there is an action against Sudan's unity being carried out on the Kenyan territory. This is in addition to what the prime minister said in his statement to the American television network CBC [as published] and the facts which he mentioned in this regard.

On the recent controversy in the Sudanese political arena on the priorities of foreign policy and relations with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Libya according to the fraternity charter among the three ruling parties, Taj al-Sirr, who is affiliated with the DUP, said:

We believe that all foreign relations issues are political issues in the first place and are being dealt with on this basis. The Foreign Ministry deals with these issues from an executive viewpoint. Relations with sisterly Egypt have bypassed the stage of political action after dialogues and integration of views among the parties. These relations have entered the stage of implementation after the establishing of the joint ministerial committee according to the fraternity charter. This committee is cochaired by the prime ministers of the two countries. We also established a special directorate for Egyptian-Sudanese fraternity at the Foreign Ministry.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the stage of special relations with the sisterly Saudi Arabia and Libya is still within the framework of political studies and contacts with the two countries. The formulas of these relations will become clear in the coming stage. The ongoing talks with Libya are outside the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry even if the foreign minister leads the Sudanese delegation to the talks because he is carrying out his political responsibilities in the DUP.

Kenya To Close Embassy Due To Dispute Over Elemi
EA2510162188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-SUDANI reports today that its investigations reveal that the Kenyan Government intends to close its embassy in Khartoum in protest against his excellency the prime minister's statement on the Kenyan Government's relationship with the rebel movement in southern Sudan.

Informed sources in the Foreign Ministry explained that Sudan has officially asked Kenya to return the Elemi triangle to the administration of the Sudanese Government. The source said Sudan has persisted in asking Kenya—through the two countries' joint ministerial committees—to give up administering the triangle and that Kenya had not denied that the Elemi triangle was part of Sudan.

The source said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had documents and maps which prove that the triangle belongs to Sudan if the matter required resort to the International Court of Justice.

Kenya has continued to rule the Elemi triangle on behalf of the Sudanese government according to the 1917 agreement between the British administrations in Kenya and Sudan. The Sudanese Government used to pay Kenya for administering the triangle on its behalf. The triangle lies in Rudolf Province, which was part of Uganda, and the British joined it to Kenya.

Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih said he had had a separate meeting with the Kenyan foreign minister at the 43d UN General Assembly in Washington [as heard] at the beginning of this month. His excellency said that he had explained to the Kenyan foreign minister that the Kenyan Government was treating John Garang as it treated heads of state and providing him with material and moral support.

His excellency said that he had informed the Kenyan foreign minister that Sudan desired Kenya to be either a (?friend) of Sudan or neutral in the dispute between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement led by John Garang.

Kenya Condemned for Assisting SPLA Rebels

EA2510203288 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum—The Sudanese Government has condemned Kenya for assisting the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which is opposed to the government of that country.

The foreign minister of Sudan, Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, told newsmen in Khartoum that Kenya was providing the rebels with weapons claiming that they are emergency supplies. The Sudanese minister claimed that Kenya also accorded the rebel leader, Colonel John Garang, the status of a head of state.

Mr Abu Salih asked the Kenyan Government to deny Col Garang the opportunity to speak on the television and other news media.

DUP Representative To Meet SPLA Officials

LD2510122188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 25 (SUNA)—A representative from the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) will fly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for a meeting with the representatives of the rebel movement of (Sudan People's Liberation Army) John Garang.

Bi-weekly AL-ADEA has reported that retired Gen. Yusuf Ahmed Yusuf of the DUP will convey to the rebel representatives the view of the DUP on the agreement reached early this month during a meeting between the SPLA and representatives of the DUP.

A ministerial committee set up by the Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi to study the DUP-SPLA agreement is currently embarking on reviewing it and is due to submit its assesment to the cabinet soon.

The cabinet said it would endorse the view of the committee on whether to reject or not the DUP-SPLA agreement.

Government Controls 'Major' Southern Towns

LD2510123388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1047 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 25 (SUNA)—The Armed Forces are controlling all major towns in southern Sudan and the security situation in Juba, capital of southern Sudan region of Equatoria Region, is stable, said Deputy Chief of Staff Gen Muhammad Zayn al-'Abidin Muhammad in a statement to daily AL-USBU' today.

He told the paper that all the areas held by the rebels will be liberated soon and that the increase of rebel activities are aimed at "attracting international attention and world propaganda," and that these areas have no strategic importance whatever. He again reitreated that the rebels are receiving assistance from two neighbouring countries which he did not name.

He further called for the unity of the internal front.

Kuwait

Syria's Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD2510114688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 25 (KUNA)—H.H the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Tuesday received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who was received by the amir at the Sayf Palace today. Al-Shar' arrived here today in a previously unannounced brief visit. Contents of the message were not disclosed.

Hands Message to Amir

JN2510133288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait, today received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the presence of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the SAR charge d'affaires. Al-Shar' handed Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad a message from President Hafiz al-Asad on bilateral relations and new developments in the Arab arena.

Al-Shar' arrived in Kuwait today at the beginning of a Gulf tour.

Makes Comments, Departs

LD2510151388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1312 GMT 25 Oct 88

[By Salih Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 25 (KUNA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Tuesday left here for Abu Dhabi on the second leg of a lightning tour, during which he will visit Bahrain tomorrow. Before departure, Al-Shar', who arrived here this morning, told KUNA that he conveyed a message to h.h. the amir from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the "current developments in the region." He did not elaborate. Al-Shar' said he was satisfied about his meeting with the amir and praised his highness's views on the Arab situation and the Lebanese crisis in particular.

Replying to a question on Syria's stance on United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nyhayyan's call for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese dilemma, Al-Shar' said his country "welcomes any such Arab effort." He added he is directly heading for Abu Dhabi for delivering a similar message to Shaykh Zayid.

Regarding prospects for ending the Lebanese crisis, the Syrian foreign minister said "in the heart of the Lebanese crisis is the need to effect political reforms and national conciliation between all Lebanese factions." He stressed that "without this it is hard to imagine a speedy settlement for the Lebanese crisis."

The Syrian chief diplomat was seen off by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi.

Writer Views Carlucci Statements on Arms Sales

JN2510224888 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 19

["Gulf Horizons" corner: "Carlucci's Statements and the Congress' Stands on the Gulf" by 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] In a speech to the conference of the American-Arab Affairs Council in Huntington, West Virginia, Frank Carlucci accused some congressmen of hampering any U.S. Government initiative to provide reasonable military assistance to meet the needs of Arab partners. He said if Congress manages to break the partnership between the United States and the Arab world, the real victim will be the peace process.

Carlucci's speech came after Congress had halted many arms sales to some Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia's $20 billion deal, after which it resorted to Britain for other sophisticated weapons. Congress also played a major role in trying to delay the U.S. arms deal with Kuwait which included sophisticated aircraft and missiles. It hoped to postpone the delivery of the deal out of concern for Israeli interests.

Although the Kuwaiti Government made a great effort to convince U.S. officials, Congress continued to ignore Kuwaiti needs. However, the successful talks held by His Highness Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, prime minister, during his visit to Washington on 10 July overcame all the difficulties facing the deal.

Greatly influenced by the Zionist lobby, Congress hampers many similar deals, claiming that its decisions are to serve peace and safeguard Israel from any aggression against it.

During that conference, Carlucci also said: "The idea that the defense cooperation between the United States and the moderate Arab states constitutes a danger to Israel is incorrect and baseless." He stressed: "Israel has to consider that non-U.S. weapons in the hands of its neighbors constitute a greater danger to it." It is clear that the sources of weaponry have become available worldwide, especially since the big powers supply all states with arms when they merely express the desire to have them. The U.S. monopoly has become unjustifiable regardless of the pretexts of congressmen.

The U.S. defense secretary's statements are extremely improtant. However, he should have tried to convince Congress to ease its measures against arms sales to Arab or Gulf countries. Such measures will make the countries do without U.S. weapons, as Western and Eastern European states now possess more advanced ones. This confirms Carlucci's assertion that tens of billions of dollars will go abroad instead of supporting the basic defense industries and enhancing the U.S. economy.

Although Carlucci is interested in establishing peace in the region—after the end of the Iraq-Iran war, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the calm situation in the Western Sahara, Angola, and Cambodia, and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' four visits to the Middle East—the U.S. defense secretary is called upon to exert a greater effort in cooperation with the U.S.-Administration to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

He is called upon to pressure Israel to accept a just and durable peace instead of continuing its repressive and coercive measures and acts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, thus exacerbating the situation in the region and reaffirming that no peace can be achieved without Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people their full rights.

The U.S. Administration should consider two major points. The first is to convince the U.S. Congress to change its biased and pro-Israel policy and the second is to initiate genuine U.S. support for peace efforts in the region. If these two issues are dealt with honestly and seriously, we believe peace will prevail and stability will be restored to the area which has witnessed a 4-year-old conflict without achieving any Israeli or U.S. objectives in the Middle East.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Omani Delegation 20 Oct

EA2110082088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, received at noon today at the Secretariat of the Presidium the fraternal Omani delegation led by Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Qatabi, the minister for regional municipalities affairs in the Sultanate of Oman. Shaykh al-Qatabi conveyed the greetings of his brother Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman. Brother al-'Attas weclomed the Omani delegation to our country.

During the meeting, there was a review of the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries [words indistinct]. The leader of the fraternal Omani delegation expressed pleasure at meeting the brother chairman of the Presidium and at its visit to Democratic Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, the minister of justice and religious trusts; Brother Muhammad Umar ba Sa'id, the PDRY ambassador to the Sultanate; Brother Muhammad Salim al-Hajiri, the ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Aden; and Brother 'Ali al-Kaf, from the Foreign Ministry Arab Homeland Department.

The brother chairman of the Presidium asked the delegation to convey his greetings to his brother Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

YSP's Muhammad Departs for Syria 21 Oct

EA2210121288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden this morning for Damascus, heading a party delegation on a visit to Syria in response to an invitation by the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party. He was seen off at the airport by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Peoples' Supreme Council, some members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee, and ministers.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said that while in Syria he and the delegation would discuss aspects of relations between the two parties and countries, and ways to strengthen them, and exchange views on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and issues of common interest. He said that the visit would be conducive to strengthening militant relations between the two friendly parties and countries.

He said the visit is a sign of the true expression of the stances of the PDRY government and people in support of the heroic steadfastness of Syria against all imperialist and Zionist designs and conspiracies. He expressed great confidence that the results of the visit and the meetings he would hold in Damascus would have positive implications in strengthening bilateral relations in a manner that would serve common interests. The visit would also contribute to expanding the horizons of coordination and consultation on all the crucial international issues and those of our Arab nation.

The accompanying delegation includes: A'dah 'Ali Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the federation of the Yemen Womens Union; (Sa'id Salim Faraj), member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in Shabwah Governorate; Muhammad 'Awad [word indistinct], director of the Arab Homeland Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; ('Abd al-Salam Qasim), director of the assistant secretary general's office; and other officials.

Mauritanian Information Minister Departs 20 Oct

EA2210125388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Summary] A delegation of the Mauritanian Ministry of Information, led by Minister Muhammad Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba, left Aden this evening after a several-day visit to South Yemen. Before leaving, he told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he had conveyed an oral message to Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, chirman of the Sudanese People's Council Presidium, from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmad Taya about strengthing bilateral relations. He said the bilateral agreement on information cooperation, signed during his visit, was a positive step that would open up cooperation in other sectors.

Saudi Arabia

2d Secretary at Embassy in Turkey Assassinated

JN2610070088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The second secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Turkey was killed in Ankara last night when he was shot several times while ascending the steps leading to his house in a residential quarter of the Turkish capital. Saudi Ambassador to Turkey 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hodja expressed his belief that the diplomat, whose name is 'Abd al-Ghani Baddawi, was not killed for personal reasons.

The Saudi ambassador added his embassy had received threats during the hajj season. Iran boycotted the hajj season this year following the violent clashes which took place between Saudi security forces and a number of Iranian pilgrims. Many Iranians were killed in the clashes.

Gunmen Flee After Attack

TA2610062988 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] 'Abd al-Ghani Badawi, second secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Ankara, was shot dead last night. The gunmen who attacked the Saudi diplomat in front of his house reportedly fled after the incident. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The police are continuing their investigation and searches in connection with the assassination of the Saudi diplomat.

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Foreign Minister Visits During Gulf Tour

JN2510175088 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 25 (GNA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived today for a visit to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour. Al-Shar', who earlier visited Kuwait, was met at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdallah and other officials.

Al-Shar' told EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY he was carrying a message to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with Arab developments.

Asked about the UAE call for an emergency Arab summit, he said Syria appreciates every sincere Arab efforts especially by Shaykh Zayid to end Lebanon's crisis. He said he would discuss the situation in Lebanon with Shaykh Zayid and added, "We believe that there is no solution to the current crisis without national accord among all Lebanese parties."

"Such accord should be based on political reforms that will achieve equality among different Lebanese parties, without this the Lebanese plight will persist," he said. He said continuation of such a situation in Lebanon was not in the interest of the Arab nation. "Our belief is that Lebanon's unity and Arab identity concerns all Arab states," he added.

Meets Minister of State

JN2510190088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Oct (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister this evening. They reviewed bilateral relations and current Arab developments. The Syrian foreign minister had arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this evening on a visit to the UAE as part of a trip in a number of the region's states.

Al-Shar' is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on current Arab issues, foremost among which is the situation in Lebanon.

Departs for Muscat

JN2610094588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Abu Dhabi today for Muscat following a visit to the UAE as part of a tour of the Arabian Gulf region. Earlier, Al-Shar' conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The message deals with the current situation in the Arab arena.

Burkinabe External Relations Minister Arrives

JN2410105588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (WAKH)—Burkinabe External Relations Minister Jean-Marc Palm arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a 3-day visit to the UAE. The Burkinabe minister will hold talks with a number of UAE officials on aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the various fields.

Delivers Message to President

JN2410113088 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has received a written message from the Burkinabe president on Arab-African cooperation. The message was delivered by Jean-Marc Palm, Burkinabe minister of external relations, when he was received by his highness the president at Al-Khaznah Palace today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

UN Chief Says Negotiations To Resume 31 Oct

JN2510213688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2106 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement Security Council Resolution 598 will resume in Geneva on 31 October. INA has learned that the UN secretary general had previously called on the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran to resume the negotiations he will be attending in Geneva. It is hoped the studies on the negotiations will be held in the Palace of Nations in Geneva where previous studies of negotiations were held which started on 25 August.

Perez de Cuellar said his personal representative Jan Eliasson will accompany him to Geneva and will participate with him in the Iraq-Iran negotiations. The UN secretary general announced the date of the resumption of the Iran-Iraq negotiations in a press conference attended by his personal representative in the negotiations Jan Eliasson and Alexander Joerg, head of the Security Council and FRG representative.

Arab League Secretary General Visits President

JN2510205388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Klibi renewed congratulations on Iraq's victories, which protected the eastern part of the Arab nation and the pan-Arab security from surrounding threats. He stressed his support for Iraq's position in the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran to secure Iraq's legitimate rights.

During the meeting, means of promoting the role of the Arab League and the institutions of common Arab action were discussed. President leader Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's deep belief in consolidating the Arab League and strengthening bonds of the common Arab action in a way that would enhance solidarity between the Arab countries.

The talks also dealt with the situation in fraternal Lebanon and the need for an Arab initiative to help consolidate the unity of fraternal Lebanon and enable it to overcome its ordeal. The talks also dealt with issues of concern to the Arab situation and the common Arab action.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the secretary of the president.

Meets With 'Arafat, 'Aziz

JN2510212488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, here this evening. They discussed the Arab state of affairs and the developments of the Palestinian cause.

An authorized Palestinian source told the WAKH corespondent in Baghdad that the discussion during the tripartite meeting dealt with the Palestinian trend to proclaim the establishment of the Palestinian state by the PNC session that is scheduled to meet in Algeria next month.

'Arafat returned to Baghdad today at the end of a short visit to Turkey during which he held talks with Turkish President Kenan Evren and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal which resulted in Turkey's supporting the future Palestinian measures.

The tripartite meeting takes place within the framework of an Arab-Palestinian move seeking to garner Arab and Islamic support for the steps the PLO intends to take in the PNC session. The Palestinian source said that the discussion with Tariq 'Aziz and Chedli Klibi also focused on the efforts to hold an Arab summit devoted to the current state of affairs in Lebanon, to the enhancement of the Lebanese people's unity, and to ending interference in its affairs. [passage omitted]

Departs for Abu Dhabi

JN2610095088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Baghdad today for Abu Dhabi following a 3-day visit to Iraq, during which he met with President Saddam Husayn.

He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

President, King Husayn Hold Phone Conversation

JN2410160688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A telephone contact has been held between President Leader Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. They exchanged congratulations on Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 26 Oct

JN2610094088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran.

Jovic is making shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran to follow up UNIIMOG work in both countries.

Oil Minister Returns From Madrid OPEC Meetings

JN2410104588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim returned to Baghdad early this morning after leading the Iraqi delegation to the joint meeting of the OPEC Strategy and Prices Committees which concluded in Madrid on Thursday.

The minister said that the meeting of the two committees was positive and useful. The eight member states presented clear stands to reach final solutions to many problems from which OPEC is suffering. In a statement to INA, 'Abd al- Rahim affirmed Iraq's readiness to participate in any agreement to define a new production ceiling in harmony with the demand for oil in world markets as well as to define new quotas for the 13 OPEC member states.

The oil minister noted that the delegations agreed to go back to their governments for consultations on the final stand to be taken in the coming meeting to be held in Vienna next month as well as to hold contacts with OPEC and non-OPEC countries. He said that the two committees comprise the oil ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait, Indonesia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and Iran.

Says Agreement Reached

JN2510211888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1904 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Iraq has stressed its readiness to join a new agreement to determine a production ceiling matching the oil demand on international markets and setting quotas for OPEC member states.

Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said in a statement to INA after heading the Iraqi delegation to the joint meeting of the OPEC strategy and price committees, which recently concluded in Madrid, that although the meeting did not reach a radical solution to the instability and deteriorating prices in oil markets due to the oil surplus, it was positive and useful. The eight participating countries presented clear positions with a view to reaching final solutions to many of the OPEC problems, he said.

He explained that an agreement was reached that delegations attending the conference go back to their governments for consultation on the final stand that should be adopted at the forthcoming meeting—to be held in Vienna next month—and for contacts with other OPEC member states and oil producing countries outside OPEC.

U.S. 'Failure' To Impose Sanctions Viewed

JN2410121488 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 24. INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH Iraqi paper has considered failure of the US Congress to impose economic sanctions against Iraq as a failure of the Zionist lobby and all false testimonies aimed at doing harm to Iraq.

The Iraqi daily said, in an editorial published here today, that the anti-Iraq campaign fabricated by Zionism and its lackies of propaganda and media organs was designed to lessen Iraq's victory and to disgrace Iraq's reputation. Yet, Zionism and its lackies came out from the campaign empty-handed, AL-JUMHURIYAH noted.

All means of pressure on Iraq to tilt the scale of Tehran rulers at peace negotiations failed to attain their target, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked. It added "Iraq is firm on its legitimate, just rights and adheres to its stands to consecrate these rights no matter what games of Zionism and Imperialism are."

Invalid claims levelled against Iraq were defeated and heads of those who gave false testimonies were laureated with disgrace and shame, the Iraqi paper noted.

As for those who backed Iraq, in the forefront of them its Arab brethren except for the criminal regime of Al-Asad, they came out in a favourable light, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed.

Air Force Raids 'Terrorist' Targets in Lebanon

TA2610104888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Air Force planes this morning attacked terrorist targets in southern Lebanon. All our planes returned safely and the targets were destroyed. The attacked targets are situated north of Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and served as a command center and starting point for terrorist actions, the IDF spokesman announced. [passage omitted]

IDF Reports Air Force Raids North of Al-Damur

TA2610132388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked terrorist targets north of Al-Damur in Lebanon. The IDF spokesman reports that all our planes returned safely and that pilots reported that the targets were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Reports on Lebanon Operation

TA2510193988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman has denied reports by Beirut radio stations that the IDF entered southern Lebanon this afternoon and captured positions 15 km deep into the Al-Biqa' sector.

Rabin 'Totally' Denies Report on 'Hit Teams'

TA2510115288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has totally denied the REUTER's news report about the Israeli hit teams in the territories. The defense minister was briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning. Jack Katzenell reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] The defense minister was speaking to me after emerging from the meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Inside, he told the Knesset members it was expected that the disturbances would get worse on Israel's election day, 1 November, and the following day, which is Balfour Day, and probably when the Palestine National Council meets, but the Army was prepared for this.

Rabin told me there was absolutely no basis for the foreign press report that two crack units of the IDF had been liquidating leaders of the uprising. No IDF unit is committed to operate outside the law, he said.

Referring to South Lebanon, Rabin rejected calls from various parts of the political spectrum to build a security fence along the northern edge of the security zone. It would do more harm than good, he said. We cannot cut the population of South Lebanon off from the rest of the country. They get their water and electricity from the north. We try to help the civilian population, but we have not assumed responsibility for their prosperity, he said.

The defense minister did not believe the security zone should be expanded northward. That would only increase IDF casualties, he said. We have to strike a delicate balance, ensuring security for Galilee and trying to get the IDF casualties in Lebanon down. After last week's car bomb explosion, IDF drivers have been warned not to bunch their vehicles, but to keep their distance.

Rabin disclosed that the girl captured with the PLO gang in Kafr Killa yesterday was not 13 years old, as reported, but 18. [end recording]

And still on the REUTER's report: Representatives of the agency were summoned to the Government Press Office this morning for not submitting the story to the censor. Neither side would comment on whether any action was taken against the news agency.

Police Complaint Filed Against UK Reporters

TA2510185188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Brigadier General Yitzhaq Shani, the chief military censor, today filed a complaint with the Jerusalem police against two reporters of the REUTER news agency and the FINANCIAL TIMES reporter. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe says that the defense establishment has also decided to investigate the legal aspects of canceling the visas and work permits of foreign correspondents based in Israel when they fail to present material to the military censor in the future. The defense establishment views with gravity the publication by REUTER of a report about IDF units Duvdevan [Cherry] and Shimshon [Samson] without presenting them first to the military censor.

It was decided today to suspend the [Government Press Office] press cards of REUTER Bureau Chief Paul Taylor; REUTER correspondent Steve Weizman; and Andrew Whitley, the British THE FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper correspondent in Israel. The disciplinary action means that the three will not receive government services in Israel and will not be invited to official briefings. It was nevertheless decided not to withdraw government services from REUTER.

Lahd: Present Means 'Insufficient' for Defense

TA2510081388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander, said that additional troops and new measures will be employed in the very near future to foil the infiltration of terrorist squads from the north into the security zone. The efforts will be concentrated in the two

areas through which squads have recently penetrated: Fatahland, at the base of Har Dov, and the narrow strip in the central section of the security zone, opposite Misgav 'Am. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 25 October adds that "the seven terrorists captured in South Lebanon yesterday said they were planning to attack Kibbutz Misgav 'Am."]

In a conversation with our correspondent Hayim Hecht, Gen Lahd emphasized that the current measures at his disposal are insufficient to prevent terrorist squads from infiltrating across the 120-km border.

A senior officer in the IDF Northern Command has said that although yesterday's capture of nine terrorists indicates that the system as a whole is very efficient, the fact that terrorists have again managed to reach the border fence calls for a reexamination of the issue. Security sources believe that that the two recent attempts involving car bombs in South Lebanon reflect a change in the methods employed by terrorist organizations. The defense minister has said that having failed to hit the SLA and IDF positions in the security zone, the Hizballah organization has reverted to the method of car bombs.

Minister Rabin said he has no doubt that Syria wishes to direct the activities of every element in Lebanon against targets in the security zone and Israel, although the squad captured in Kafr Killa yesterday belongs to 'Arafat's Fatah and is not subject to Syrian influence.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 October in a report on page one adds that addressing an election rally last night, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that because the squad belongs to 'Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, he does not "put much stock in talk of 'Arafat, Jordan's King Husayn and Egyptian President Mubarak forming a 'peace bloc.' 'I don't like people who talk about a peace bloc and then send terrorists on their way to Israel. I am more interested in the terrorists caught than in a thousand declarations by 'Arafat,' Peres added."]

Our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the car bomb that exploded 6 days ago had stood stationary for 3 hours at a site only several hundred meters from the spot where it exploded. The car driver and his guide had observed Israeli vehicles, waiting for an opportunity when a large number of cars would stand close together.

SLA Said Not Ready To Replace IDF in Lebanon

TA2510195588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] IDF sources this evening warned against entertaining the idea that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] could soon replace the IDF in the security zone. The sources have reported that the SLA's recent performance has been good and encouraging but that it is still incapable of defending the entire south. The IDF believes that the two latest infiltration attempts are unrelated except for the fact that most of the squads, including the Hizballah group, came from areas controlled by the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Romanian Minister Meets With Shamir, Peres

TA2510124988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Romanian foreign trade minister is currently in Israel, trying to improve trade relations between the two countries. More on this from Ari'el Sullivan:

Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade Ioan Ungur met with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres at their respective offices this morning. The Romanian minister has been seeking increased bilateral trade between Israel and Romania, and the formal trade agreement is expected to be signed tomorrow. It has been reported that an agreement was reached to buy raw materials from the Soviet Union, such as oil, coal, and diamonds, to be traded with Israel via Romania, but officials declined from revealing details of the agreement.

In his meeting with Peres, the Romanian minister also raised the desire to increase industrial cooperation between the two countries. Peres agreed with the minister regarding Romania's special place because of its continued relations with Israel. Peres also noted the decision to reduce the travel tax for Israelis visiting Romania, as one step taken to improve tourism. Romania has never broken off diplomatic relations with Israel.

Eban Ends 2-Day 'Private Visit' to Prague

TA2610110288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Prague—Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, yesterday completed a two-day private visit to Prague, the first to Czechoslovakia by a senior Israeli official in 20 years. He conferred with Bohuslav Kucera, the president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party and deputy speaker of parliament.

Ben-Aharon: Mubarak Autonomy Remarks 'Regrettable'

TA2610074688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Husni Mubarak says that Yitzhaq Shamir has destroyed the Camp David spirit and only God can revive it. The time for autonomy talks on the territories has passed. The Egyptian president made his remarks in Cairo, upon the completion of his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. He pointed out that he had advised the PLO not to declare the establishment of an independent state without first fixing its border, out

of a concern that Israel could believe it included Israeli territories. President Mitterrand said that before he reveals his position on a Palestinian state, he wants more information.

And now for Jerusalem's reaction: Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says the Egyptian president's remarks are regrettable. Prime Minister Shamir adheres to the spirit and contents of the Camp David accords, while the Egyptians are the ones responsible for freezing the autonomy talks.

Shamir Speaks Against Annexation of Territories

TA2610102188 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Efrayim Me'ir]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir came out against annexation of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza late last night in a speech to thousands of Likud supporters at the Bat Yam amphitheater in what may well be the surprise of the 1988 election campaign. "It's a lie that the Likud wants to annex 1.5 million Arabs," the prime minister said. "Did Shamir ever say this? He never said it." Continuing in terms that might have come from the mouth of rival Labor Party candidate Shim'on Peres, Shamir said further that "the fate of the territories will be decided in negotiations. Annexation is an ugly word. And neither will we impose Israeli law." The prime minister went on to voice his hope for (mutual) respect and co-existence in all of the Land of Israel.

Peres Promises Rightists May Join in Peace Talks

TA2510173888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] If I am elected, I will invite representatives from the rightist parties to participate in peace negotiations even if they are not members of the Cabinet, said Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

One week before the elections, Shim'on Peres announced that if he were to head the new government, he would invite representatives of the rightist parties to participate in peace negotiations, even if they were not members of his government. Peres said that the same situation would prevail as is currently the case in Israel's UN mission, which includes opposition members. Just so, the representatives of the right would enjoy the status of consultants but would have no authority. [passage omitted]

Shim'on Peres is concerned about the current state of the economy and predicts an even worse crisis after the elections. Peres refused to divulge how he would distribute the government portfolios after the elections, if he were to win. [passage omitted]

Tehiya Leader on Conditions for Coalition, Peace

TA2310115988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 3

[Excerpts] [ITIM] Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman, Tehiya chairman, said last Friday that if the Tehiya is placed in an appropriate position in the government during the next 2 years, the reality in Judaea and Samaria will become irreversible. Therefore, the Tehiya will be prepared to join a coalition with the Likud even without obtaining written commitments for the future. What the movement demands of the coalition is Cabinet portfolios that would allow it to make concrete changes.

Ne'eman, who addressed a forum of the Engineer's Club in Tel Aviv, said that the question of when peace with the Arabs will be attained is purely "messianic." He described the situation in the Muslim eastern part of the world, pointing out that cruel and incessant wars is the Arabs' way with their neighbors and with themselves.

According to him, the Likud and the Alignment deal with techniques instead of principles. Both pose no preconditions for negotiations.

Ne'eman said the Tehiya, however, has two preconditions: No negotiations if the issue is peace in exchange for territories; no peace agreement without the solution of the refugee problem with Arab countries absorbing them. [passage omitted]

If a national front government is formed, added Ne'eman, the intifada [uprising] will be promptly solved: the Jordan bridges will be closed, no work permits in Israel will be granted, and the population will have to calm down if it is to survive financially.

Ne'eman revealed that he had approached Rehav'am Ze'evi [head of the Moledet movement] and Refa'el Eytan [head of the Tzomet movement] to form a right-wing alignment, but has received no reply. He believes the two have difficulty in belonging to an establishment and prefer to act alone.

Gaza Strip Public Leaders Send Message to PNC

A2410201488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A group of public figures from the Gaza Strip has sent a message to the PNC, which is to meet in Algiers next month, urging it to adopt a solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of the principle of two countries for the two nations. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias adds that among the signatories of the message are Fatah and PFLP supporters and communists. Members of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] abstained.

Palestinian Leaders Comment on Aqaba Meeting

TA2510150788 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
24 Oct 88 pp 1, 11

[Text] Regarding the tripartite Aqaba meeting, attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah, head of the Gaza lawyers association, said: The meeting held in Aqaba between King Husayn, President Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat was the beginning of a new era of reconciliation which we hope will continue. It has the aim of finding a unified position on issues to be raised at the international conference. I believe that President Husni Mubarak has always insisted on the need for coordination between the PLO and Jordan, and he has finally succeeded in creating a measure of coordination between the two sides. As for King Husayn, he is trying to obtain peace and has consistently called for an international conference.

In answer to a question about those who oppose 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, Abu Rahmah said that he does not believe that this opposition has any real basis because one cannot ignore the Arab states which surround Israel and which will be a party to the peace. As long as we and King Husayn continue to strive for peace, nothing stands in the way of cooperation between the two sides.

Abu Rahmah said that the average Palestinian welcomes any joint Arab coordination and hopes that all the Arabs coordinate their positions in a unified manner. The average Palestinian supports the joining of all the efforts to reach a just peace.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said that the Aqaba meeting is regarded as a good beginning and that Jordan is a full partner in the peace process.

Ziyad Abu Zayyad, editor-in-chief of the Hebrew weekly "GESHER" published in Jerusalem, said that he could not understand how PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat could go and confer with King Husayn at the same time the establishment of an independent Palestinian state might be announced.

Some political observers believe that Jordan has returned to play an important role in the Middle East, but this time more forcefully.

Arab Newspapers on Aqaba Talks, Peace Process

'Unified Arab Strategy' Needed

TA2510190688 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Oct 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A New Phase"]

[Text] The meeting held in Aqaba between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, President Husni Mubarak, and King Husayn proves the urgent need for coordinating Arab positions regarding the peace process and the means of reaching the table of the proposed international conference.

Jordan, Egypt, the PLO, Syria, and the other Arab states are agreed on the necessity of convening an international peace conference attended by all parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO, on the basis of acknowledging the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination and the right to choose representatives.

On this basis, the stages of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination began in 1982, but Jordan announced the suspension of the political coordination process in 1985 and followed this last July with the cutting of its ties with the West Bank because of the PLO's adherence to the right to self-determination and rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 in its present formulation. The experience gained since the suspension of coordination has proven to Jordan, as well as to other Arab and foreign countries, that peace cannot be achieved except by the PLO's active participation, without detracting from the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

The Palestinian people have sought and continue to seek a balanced political equation that would ensure the exercise of their national and human rights in a natural way. This position enjoys a Palestinian consensus and the support of the great majority of the world's countries, with the exception of the United States and Israel.

Without building a unified Arab strategy for political action, the possibility of peacemaking will remain illusory. We are hopeful that the Aqaba meeting will pave the way for removing the obstacles on the path of building a unified Arab strategy between Jordan, the PLO, Egypt, and Syria.

In past years Arab states committed strategic errors when they decided to embrace debilitating U.S. terms. These positions had the greatest impact in undermining the power of the Arabs to influence events and developments that affect them.

Now that we are facing an era of international reconciliation, and with the quickening pace of events witnessed by the occupied territories in particular and the region in general, the building of a unified position should be carried out according to the aspirations, wishes, and interests of the Arabs, headed by the Palestinian people. Moreover, coordination and dialogue between the PLO and any Arab state should be on the basis of equality, mutual interest, and definite respect.

AL-FAJR Lauds Aqaba Meeting

TA2610073788 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
23 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "On the Sidelines of the Aqaba Meeting"]

[Text] The Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, yesterday paid a previously unannounced visit to the Jordanian town of Aqaba to meet with King Husayn in the presence

of the Egyptian president in order to confer on "finding a formula for a confederal union between Jordan and a Palestinian state in the event that such a state is declared"—this according to a statement by a PLO official.

We believe that this visit by itself constitutes proof of the impetus and sincerity of the moves undertaken by the PLO to overcome the obstacles and impediments that obstruct the peace process in the Middle East region.

In a statement to editors of Egyptian newspapers before his own and the Egyptian president's departure for Aqaba, the Palestinian leader stressed significant points which, if achieved and taken into consideration, would lead to the realization of the desired peace in the region and would straighten things out.

One of the points that 'Arafat raised in his statement was the need to advance quickly toward the convocation of an international conference through Arab conditions that have paved the way for participation in an international conference as the best means, in this critical stage, for attaining the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Another point is that 'Arafat recognizes all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, since the outset of the Palestinian problem, including Resolutions 242 and 338. This is because these two separate resolutions are not adequate for establishing a just peace if all UN resolutions regarding the problem are not taken into consideration.

As for the point in 'Arafat's statement regarding the particular concern and immense significance that the PLO attaches to the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, which should be based "in the future" on a confederal basis, this point is firm proof that the Palestinian leadership gives primary importance to the pan-Arab dimension. This leadership is not striving for an independent Palestinian state in order to be separated from the brothers, but rather wishes it to be a strong cornerstone in building the edifice of Arab unity.

We hope that this Egyptian-Palestinian-Jordanian meeting will result in the convergence of views and in finding the best means for shaping a strong and active Arab-Palestinian stance that will eventually lead to a just resolution of the Palestinian problem through the regulations and principles that govern the Palestinian procession.

Further on Disturbances, Casualties in Territories

Cars Damaged in E. Jerusalem

TA2510093588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Students staged disturbances this morning in East Jerusalem's Salah al-Din Street and the Wadi al-Jawz neighborhood. The youths blocked roads, stoned passing vehicles, and halted traffic. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that a few cars were slightly damaged, but there were no casualties. The police detained several rioters. [passage omitted]

Stonethrowers Shot in W. Bank

TA2510153988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Two stonethrowers in Judaea and Samaria were shot and wounded today by IDF gunfire. One was wounded in Nabulus and the other in Ramallah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an initial investigation by a senior officer in Nabulus reveals that the youth who died yesterday in the Farah refugee camp was shot during a riot. After an IDF patrol was attacked by youths, the soldiers fired rubber bullets, and when their lives became endangered, the commander fired, hitting the youth.

Three buses were stoned this afternoon in Jerusalem. In the Shu'fat area, an Arab passenger on a No 25 bus was slightly wounded. Another bus on the same line was stoned while traveling to Neve Ya'aqov. There were no casualties in that incident. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that a stone was also hurled at a No 23 bus in Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem. One passenger was slightly hurt.

E. Jerusalem School Closed

TA2510191188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] A 23-year-old youth was injured by a plastic bullet IDF soldiers shot in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza at around 1700. Violent demonstrations and stone throwing occurred in that camp. Three plastic bullets were fired to ward off inciters. The wounded youth was hospitalized at Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that this afternoon a 14-year-old youth was injured in similar circumstances in the Khan Yunus refugee camp. A curfew has been in force on the camp since then. In the Jabalyah refugee camp, IDF soldiers dispersed other violent demonstrations, but there have been no reports on casualties.

The Al-Rashidiyah municipal high school in East Jerusalem will be closed in view of continuing disruptions of studies and incidents that occurred there today. This was decided during consultations in the office of the director general of the Jerusalem municipal council. The meeting was attended by the director of the Jerusalem municipality's education division and was endorsed by the Education and Culture Ministry. The municipality spokesman has reported that studies in Al-Rashidiyah High School will resume on Monday, 3 November [as heard].

An expression of regret was made at the meeting that student riots have caused the normal operations of the school to stop. The hope was expressed that as studies

resume on Monday, the students will resume a normal course of studies. At the same time, it was explained in no uncertain terms that the municipality will not hesitate to shut down schools that serve as centers for disturbances instead of being educational frameworks.

Girl Killed in Gaza Riot

TA2510210488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] A 14-year-old girl from the Al-Shati' refugee camp was killed this evening by IDF shots. Military sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that there were disturbances in the camp early this evening, in the course of which two Molotov cocktails and rocks were hurled at an IDF patrol.

As all attempts to disperse the rioters failed and the unit was in danger, its commander fired several warning shots in the air and then at the rioters' legs. A 23-year-old youth was hurt by those shots, and the girl, Manar Samul, was killed. Her relatives snatched her body from the hospital. Arab sources have reported that six Gaza District residents were injured today in clashes with IDF soldiers.

Curfews Imposed on Gaza Camps

TA2610064088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] Last night the security forces demolished the homes of three Khan Yunus youths and sealed the home of a fourth. The youths were arrested following a series of attacks on local employees of the Civil Administration. The home of Yasir Hawayz, 18, of Rafah was also demolished last night. Yasir is on trial for attempting to stab to death four members of an Israeli reconnaissance unit in the courtyard of the Gaza prison last July.

A curfew was imposed this morning on many of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip following yesterday's disturbances and the announcement of a spontaneous commercial and services strike by local instigators. The large Gaza Strip camps, including those in the towns of Gaza, Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, and the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah are under curfew. As a result, few left for work in Israel this morning.

Security forces are on the alert to disperse groups who try to cause disturbances in the area. There have been no special incidents in the Gaza Strip so far this morning.

'Uprising' Toll Announced

TA2610102888 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 24 October, the 321st day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported 229 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. This figure does not include those killed by settlers' gunfire or under other circumstances.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories stands at 318.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, refer to 403 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—268 by IDF and settlers' gunfire;

—33 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;

—64 fatalities from asphyxiation;

—38 fatalities from other causes.

Firebomb Hurled at Fuel Truck in North

TA2610105688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A firebomb was hurled at noon at a fuel truck on the road from Shefar'am to 'Akko. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports the police closed off the area and are searching for the perpetrator.

Documentation Requirements Eased in Territories

TA2510185488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Civil Administration in the territories recently eased the requirements for inhabitants to present various documents in their dealings with the authorities, Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, told our correspondent Arye Gus.

Mr Goren conferred today with a group of notables from the territories, including the owners of agricultural firms and exporters. The Arabs called for reducing pressures on the inhabitants. Among other things, they urged that school studies be resumed and that crossings of the Jordan River bridges be made easier. Our correspondent points out that many sectors in the territories have recently shown more readiness to discuss daily affairs with the authorities.

Arab Bank Head Comments on Closure Decision

TA2510170388 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p 12

[Interview with Jawad Kamal, head of Arab Bank branches in the West Bank, by unidentified correspondent—date and place not given]

[Text] [AL-FAJR] What is your comment on the decision by the Israeli military authorities to close the Arab Bank's branches in the West Bank?

[Kamal] I believe that this decision was political not economic. The bank's branches did not violate any law.

[AL-FAJR] What is the effect of this decision on the bank on one hand, and the depositors on the other?

[Kamal] The Arab Bank will not be affected at all by this measure. Those affected will be the customers who deal with our branches in Jordan and who are in excess of 10,000 customers. We were the link between them and the branches with which they were dealing.

[AL-FAJR] What is the nature of the operation of these branches?

[Kamal] Our operation provides services and consultation to customers of the Arab Bank who deal with our branches in Jordan. We certify the signatures of the customers in all our offices in order to facilitate the payment of their checks in Amman so that they do not bounce due to variation in signature. Our branches in Jordan do not cash the checks unless they are certified by us.

[AL-FAJR] Israel radio claimed that the authorities discovered that the bank's representatives were engaged in illegal activities such as the transfer of funds from abroad. What is your comment on this?

[Kamal] This is not true. I confirm that we did not receive any payment instructions or checks from any party abroad. On the contrary, we were transferring funds to our branches in Jordan to be deposited in the accounts of customers.

6-7 Percent Drop in 2d Quarter Investment Noted

TA2410095788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 88 p 8

[Report by David Rosenberg]

[Text] The level of investment in fixed assets fell for the second quarter in a row and at a quickening pace in the April-June period, figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics released yesterday show.

Investment fell between 6 percent and 7 percent in the second quarter, equal to a 24 percent annual rate, in seasonally and inflation-adjusted terms, the bureau reported. That compared with a 2 percent decline in the first quarter and steadily increasing levels all of last year.

For the first half of the year, investment in fixed assets was off 5 percent compared with the second half of 1987, equal to an annualized rate of 18-19 percent, according to the bureau. Investment in fixed assets, which include such things as new machinery for industry, housing and transport equipment, are a barometer of the country's economic well-being, since they indicate how quickly the business is expanding.

The biggest decline in investment was in housing, which fell 12-13 percent compared with the second half of 1987 and 8-9 percent compared with the first half, although there was a slight increase in the second quarter. In non-residential building, investment was off 6-7 percent from the previous half but 9 percent higher from a year earlier.

Investment in machinery and equipment was unchanged from the second half of 1988 and was 8 percent lower from the first half. Investment in land transport was similarly unchanged from the previous half but was up a sharp 23-24 percent from a year ago. The bureau attributed this to a big increase in the purchase of passenger cars by businesses, to the tune of 40 percent over last year. In contrast, investment in trucks and similar equipment was off 8 percent from a year ago.

Business Survey Shows Economic Slowdown Continues

TA2510095388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Oct 88 p 10

[Report by finance reporter Pinhas Landau]

[Text] The third quarter of 1988 saw a worsening in the slowdown in economic activity that characterized the first half of 1988, and the outlook for the current quarter is for more of the same.

These were the key findings in the Bank of Israel's quarterly survey of business trends, released yesterday. It was based on a polling of 193 companies in industry, commerce, construction, transport, and the hotel sectors.

The survey, compiled this time by Ya'aqov Fisher of the research department, contained little good news, either for businessmen seeking light at the end of the tunnel, or for politicians in need of a pre-election boost.

In industry, most companies reported lower activity levels that encompassed lower output, sales and capacity utilization rates. The decline in sales to the local market actually worsened in the July-September quarter, while export sales stopped growing and orders for the coming months turned down, after more than a year of steady, if unspectacular, gains.

Construction and hotels also provided a gloomy picture of reduced activity, but in the commercial sector most companies reported that the downtrend in sales had halted.

Employment suffered from the downturn, especially in industry, where far more workers were fired than were hired by the reporting companies, continuing the trend of the second quarter.

Other recessionary signs were the reduction in inventories, both of raw materials and of finished goods, as well as the increase in credit extended to business. However, the growth in credit slowed compared to the second quarter of the year.

Industrial companies, however, expressed some optimism regarding their prospects, noting that they expected to see higher production levels and growing exports in the current quarter. But both they and their colleagues in other sectors thought that business conditions in their sector had deteriorated.

Soviet General on Syrian Army, Merkava Tank

TA2610092988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Oct 88 p 2

["Exclusive" report by Daniyel Dagan]

[Text] Moscow—Militarily, Syria is a powerful country. The training level of the Syrian Army is high and it is well armed. Damascus' strength should not be underestimated, General Viacheslav Gordiyenko [name as published], the commander of the military academy in Moscow, said in an exclusive interview to HA'ARETZ.

In the interview, which took place at the Malinovskiy Military Academy, the three-star general added: "The Syrians have learned from past experience and are making intense preparations for any eventuality in which they might be called upon to put their military might into operation. I have spent a lot of time in Syria, and I know that Army very well."

The academy trains senior officers in the Soviet Armored Corps and officers from friendly countries, including Syria, who come here for studies and training programs. The academy is considered one of the most important in the Soviet Army.

When Gordiyenko was asked to evaluate Israel's military strength, he said: "I am not very familiar with the subject, but we know a lot about the IDF, and I have no doubt that Israel has a good and well-trained Army. Nevertheless, the Israeli-Arab dispute cannot be solved militarily. The only solution is a political one, meaning an attempt to reach an agreement with the Arab neighbors."

[Dagan] You have observed the Merkava tank in action. What is your evaluation of this tank?

[Gordiyenko] There is no doubt that it is a good tank.

[Dagan] What is your view on positioning the engine in the front of the tank?

[Gordiyenko] It has advantages and disadvantages. It is not something new. We also have armored vehicles in which the engine is positioned in the front. I do not accept the Israeli explanation that placing the engine in the front part of the vehicle helps to protect the lives of the crew. I saw Merkava tanks going up in flames. What is important is the armor, including protection for the engine. If the engine is damaged, the entire tank burns. What is important is the structure of the entire vehicle and interaction between the components.

[Dagan] Do you think a tank like the Merkava is unsuitable for use in the Red Army?

[Gordiyenko] I have already said that the Merkava is a good tank from a technical point of view and for its ability to withstand fire. I regard it as an experiment with certain advantages and interesting points. Use in the Soviet Army? Because we are developing the friendship between us, we should aspire to fewer tanks in the USSR, Israel, and everywhere else.

AL-FAJR Criticizes Husayn's ABC Interview

TA2510185388 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Option Is the Basis"]

[Text] Three days ago certain news agencies hinted that King Husayn would announce a new political stance by which he would lend support to the election campaign of the Israeli Alignment, led by Shim'on Peres. Yesterday morning these news agencies confirmed that King Husayn in fact did speak in the "Nightline" program broadcast by ABC Television Network in support of this Israeli party. Even officials of this party immediately declared that they "hope that King Husayn's remarks will show the Israeli voters that the Jordanian option is still alive."

King Husayn's support for the Israeli Labor Party, and at the same time his fear of the possibility of the Likud's victory in the 12th Israeli Knesset elections at the beginning of next month, do not concern us other than their linkage to the so-called "Jordanian option" in resolving the Palestinian problem. This option collapsed the minute that the Jordanian king himself announced on the evening of 31 July the severance of judicial and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank.

All the accelerating events in the region, and the political changes that have occurred since the end of last year, affirm that the political option put forward for the Palestinian problem is in reality only the Palestinian

option. This option is based on the proposed international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, Israel, and naturally Jordan.

Repeatedly alluding to the "Jordanian option" now, under the pretext of the Israeli elections, constitutes a new obstacle on the road to peace and on the road of all serious and sincere efforts for this peace. We reject anyone talking in our name and in the name of a political solution to our problem outside the framework of the Palestinian principles and regulations by which we declared our urgent and persistent endeavor for a peace that would attain us our full national rights, foremost of all our right to self-determination and the right to establish a Palestinian state according to the resolutions and under the supervision of the United nations.

The PLO, our people's sole legitimate representative, has affirmed this stance with utmost clarity. At the same time it has pointed out that the issue of "confederation" or the relationship with Jordan, as well as with other Arab states, are subject to the Palestinian decision after independence.

What, therefore, does King Husayn mean when he talks about "new things in the Labor Party platform" and that "he is ready to resume the joint efforts for peace should the Alignment win in the upcoming elections?" In which efforts will the Alignment participate so long as Jordan's judicial and administrative ties with our occupied land have been severed?

The only effort required from Jordan, just as from other fraternal Arab states, is to support the national Palestinian rights, represented by the PLO, within the context of the current decisive stage, with the aim of convening an international conference having plenary powers and attended by all parties without exception. Any effort other than this would only be counterproductive and against the desire for a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

AL-SHA'B Anticipates New Jordanian Cabinet

TA2510164388 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Oct 88 pp 1, 7

[Excerpts] Nabulus—AL-SHA'B has learned from reliable sources who returned from Amman 2 days ago that informed Jordanian circles in Amman expect that King Husayn will change the present Jordanian cabinet headed by Zayd al-Rifa'i and form a cabinet that will confront the political and economic conditions that have befallen Jordan lately in light of the collapse of the Jordanian economy in general, and the Jordanian dinar in particular, in a manner that Jordan has not witnessed since the kingdom's establishment.

It has been learned that among the strongest candidates to head the new government are Mudar Badran and Ahmad 'Ubaydat, two former prime ministers. They are among the strongest opponents of Zayd al-Rifa'i's policy, particularly from the political and economic viewpoints, which Al-Rifa'i adopted by floating the Jordanian dinar following the economic collapse. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the expected new cabinet will include, apart from a new prime minister, Dr Raja'i al-Mushir, former minister of trade and industry, who will be deputy prime minister and minister of trade and industry; Shawkat Mahmud, former minister of occupied territories affairs, who will be offered the job of deputy prime minister; and ministers for development and reconstruction will be Jawad al-'Anani, and Dr Fawzi al-Sa'id. The new cabinet will also include In'am al-Mufti and Tahir al-Masri.

It has also been learned that Amjad al-Majali, ambassador in the Foreign Ministry, will be appointed as head of the Royal Court, and Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the senate, will be appointed court minister, while Zayd al-Rifa'i will be appointed speaker of the senate, and General 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali will be appointed as head of public security and adviser to the king in national security affairs. Marwan al-Qasim, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Raja'i al-Dajani will be appointed as ambassadors in the Foreign Ministry.

These circles anticipate comprehensive changes in major sensitive Jordanian departments following the expected formation of the new Jordanian Cabinet.

'Dozens' Contract Jaundice, Hepatitis in Galilee

TA2510093888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Dozens of Western Galilee residents have recently contracted jaundice and viral hepatitis. The disease is particularly widespread in the villages of Nahf, near Karmi'el, and Dayr Hanna, in the Bet Netofa Valley.

Dr Shihab Shihab, director of the Western Galilee Health Bureau, told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that he believes there is a connection between the local sewage system condition and the increased incidence of the disease.

Information Minister on Aqaba Talks, Other Issues
JN2510101588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Oct 88 p 13

[Interview with Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah by a number of AL-DUSTUR staff writers; date not given]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR: All eyes were focused on Aqaba where the tripartite summit was held. What took place there and how do you assess the results of the summit?

Al-Khasawinah: The mere convening of the summit among His Majesty King Husayn, President Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat is a good achievement and a required action because such high-level meetings are necessary to deal with the issues facing the Arab nation.

The presence of 'Arafat in Jordan in the wake of Jordan's decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank is particularly important. This affirms that resolving the Palestine question and confronting the challenges require the exchange of views between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships. This will also be reflected on the healthy atmosphere whose importance Jordan has always reiterated particularly with regard to relations with our brothers in the PLO.

Since the disengagement decision was made we have been affirming that Palestinian affairs should be the responsibility of the PLO alone, to reinforce its positions. This is accompanied by a clear Jordanian awareness that relations between the two Arab Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are distinguished in terms of geography, unity, interaction, social and economic entwinement, and interests.

I would like to emphasize that the disengagement decision was not a separation or departure from the path of pan-Arab unity neither from Jordan's nor the PLO's viewpoint, but a response to a Palestinian and a collective Arab desire to make the PLO the only one responsible for all the political aspects of the Palestine question.

Thank God, the political atmosphere of the Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting was healthy, as Jordan always wants. The three leaders reviewed at the Aqaba summit the circumstances surrounding the Palestinian issue whose most prominent feature is the heroic uprising.

The review took place with a high pan-Arab spirit to reinforce the collective Arab efforts in order to deal with the stage following the American and Israeli elections, entrench the legitimate demands of the Palestinian and Arab struggle, and to gain broad international support for these demands, particularly the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the concerned Arab parties, particularly the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

AL-DUSTUR: What about the future? Was the establishment of a confederal union between the two banks discussed and what is the stand on this proposal?

Al-Khasawinah: Before answering this question, I would like to say that the Aqaba meeting was cordial and fraternal. However, the meeting did not have an agenda. The meeting focused on reviewing the pan-Arab situation and the Palestine issue which constitutes its most important issues.

Discussions at the Aqaba meeting also focused on the options being discussed by the PLO leadership. As His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i frequently announced, we in Jordan will support any stand adopted by the PLO leadership. We pray to God that the PLO will succeed in achieving its objectives, including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Regarding the issue of confederation and other formulas of union, we in Jordan realize that there is an entanglement of interests and relations in addition to the pan-Arab fraternity between the Jordanians and their Palestinian brothers in the West Bank. These relations are, in reality, stronger than all unity formulas. We therefore believe that it is too early to present a specific formula like confederation because the Arabs and the world are awaiting the results of the PNC session and its decisions regarding the proclamation of the Palestinian state as the Palestinian brothers see fit. I would like to say that the unity trend is one of the firm principles in the Jordanian policy.

This trend also governs the implementation of the unity process. Subsequently, whether this unity is a complete, merging, federal, or confederal unity is a technicality. The most important thing at this time is to spread the ethics, spirit, and requirements of the fraternal unity. We must also spread an atmosphere of confidence and understanding, exchange honest opinions, and deepen the spirit of unity and fraternal atmosphere among the citizens. We must also avoid anything that creates sensitivities which do not serve pan-Arab purposes or Jordanian and Palestinian interests.

Al-DUSTUR: The recent disengagement measures have led to a rise in popular emotions. Has the Aqaba summit helped abate this?

Al-Khasawinah: I do not believe that there was a rise in popular emotions toward the recent measures. Moreover, I believe that, for the first time, things are on the right course between Jordan and the PLO. The truth is that some measures do change the legal position of the Palestinian citizens. However, this particular point was dealt with through clear measures to settle these problems.

We must always bear in mind that throughout the past 20 years—predominated by doubts—Jordan had no choice other than to respond to the Arab and Palestinian brothers' demand, define its stand correctly, leave Palestinian affairs to the PLO, and keep away from all

circles and activities that were the source of doubts between the two fraternal sides. This is what has been achieved, and Jordan will always be ready to do all that it can to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian brothers on the Palestinian territory, and to support their struggle through organized official discussion with the sole side representing them, the PLO.

AL-DUSTUR: Following the Aqaba summit, will His Majesty King Husayn make an Arab or another tour pursuant to the principle of continuing consultations and coordination with the brothers and friends?

Al-Khasawinah: The meeting of Arab leaders is a great achievement in itself, especially since the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue that requires comprehensive Arab efforts. This is a constant of Jordanian policy. This is why you find that regarding this great pan-Arab issue, His Majesty King Husayn holds continuous pan-Arab dialogues and meetings with concerned Arab parties.

The Jordanian Government also exerts diplomatic and political efforts in the international arena to mobilize support for the convocation of an international peace conference according to the formula proposed by Jordan, which includes the participation of the UN Security Council's five permanent member states and the Arab parties concerned, including the PLO.

AL-DUSTUR: Is it possible to predict the results of the Israeli elections, and what is required on the Arab level?

Al-Khasawinah: There is no Arab or Jordanian politician who can give an answer regarding the results of the Israeli elections. We, as Arabs, should in fact realize that serving the Palestine question and holding the international conference basically depends on the soundness of the Arab stand. When we have a cohesive stand, then this stand will impose itself on the international arena regardless of who wins this or that election. This is the basis of our stand in Jordan. At this stage, we should remember that our cause cannot be settled without the unity of the Arab stand and front, and without safeguarding this front.

Al-DUSTUR: Following the Aqaba summit, do you believe there will be an improvement in the national economy, particularly regarding the Jordanian dinar?

Al-Khasawinah: I believe that the current economic situation has nothing to do with the situation before or after the Aqaba summit. In fact, it is related to the general recession affecting the entire Arab region. As the prime minister explained, Jordan now adopts a monetary, political, economic, and financial policy based on controlling expenditure and giving priority to imports that serve the basic needs of the state and citizens. These policies reinforce the spirit of self-reliance on intrinsic resources, encourage the national and Arab products and exports to acclimatize to the state of general recession, and maintain the prices of commodities and basic services for the vast majority of citizens.

I cannot conceal that prices of imported commodities have increased, because this is natural. However, the citizens' awareness is high and they realize that what Jordan is experiencing is normal, and is being experienced in all the region's states. I feel confident because these new policies have been adopted with the participation of economic, trade, and industrial functionaries and experts. These policies have received understanding and response to safeguard our country's economy and future.

AL-DUSTUR: It is said the PLO withdrew its deposits after the disengagment and that this has affected the price of the Jordanian dinar. How true is this?

Al-Khasawinah: As far as I know, this did not happen and the PLO did not withdraw its deposits. No PLO or Arab brother would undertake such actions that serve nobody. In any case, Jordan abides by the law that empowers the depositor to dispose of his money as he wishes.

I would like to reiterate these are mere rumors circulated by those who do not want to see good relations between Jordan and the PLO, and there are many sides that invent such rumors. Neither Jordan nor the PLO is so rich that one might make the other poor.

I would like to say the economic situation in Jordan is being dealt with rationally, taking into account the views of those concerned and those who can contribute to or propose solutions.

Therefore, the management of our economic, financial, and monetary conditions is highly flexible, liable to adaptation, amendments, and the adoption of any proposal that serves the positive national trend at this stage. Like any other citizen, I am certain that we will adapt to the new conditions and move on to a new economic cycle characterized by a spirit of optimism and confidence that we will transcend this transient phase.

AL-DUSTUR: Is there any intention to stop importing luxury goods temporarily in order to adapt to the new economic conditions?

Al-Khasawinah: Stopping luxury imports and relying on national industries is part of a comprehensive national policy. Certain economic conditions do not mean a certain government. This concerns everyone. The national response to this new policy was comprehensive and satisfactory.

AL-DUSTUR: There are calls for holding an emergency Arab summit. What is Jordan's stand on this?

Al-Khasawinah: The Jordanian Government has so far not considered its position on convening an emergency Arab summit.

AL-DUSTUR: What can be done to extricate Lebanon from its sea of troubles:

Al-Khasawinah: Since the beginning of the Lebanese crisis and in view of our fraternal relations with Lebanon, we have always been anguished and distressed because of the Lebanese conditions and the continuous bleeding that saps Lebanon's vitality.

In view of our well-known aversion to interfering in the internal affairs of any Arab country, we have always desisted from airing any views on Lebanon that are not positive. We feel that maintaining Lebanese unity and independence and preventing its partition is a common task of the Lebanese and Arabs alike.

AL-DUSTUR: We heard that the government intends to dissolve the professional unions' councils and substitute committees for them. Is this true?

Al-Khasawinah: Forming professional unions is one of the rights of man and of professionals. This is guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution. I am proud to say that Jordan has been at the forefront of states in the region to carry out these rights.

The professional and trade unions continue to exist. They are working within the law in terms of formation, activities, and roles. Our state is governed by law. I am surprised at such rumors about dissolving the union councils and forming committees. The cause of these rumors may be the disengagement decision and the necessary changes in the structures of these unions, which have branches in the West Bank. However, the changes in these structures can be legally effected by the unions themselves.

The dissolution of the professional unions' councils was not discussed by the Council of Ministers at all. As I have said, the professional unions' laws determine the cases in which committees can be formed. As far as the government is concerned, there is absolutely no such move. Amendments to legislations, instructions, and directives of the state's organs and institutions are always done publicly.

On the other hand, Jordan's experience is that everything of concern to the professional unionists is discussed with them in a brotherly and family spirit. You surely remember the issue of the common technical premium and the way it was discussed with leaders of the professional unions in a spirit of brotherhood and with great responsibility.

AL-DUSTUR: What about the 1 percent [share of] the newspapers' advertisements to the Journalist Union?

Al-Khasawinah: The truth is that through his determination to apply the law, the prime minister insists on the 1 percent. Some newspapers' managerial committees had another viewpoint. To be fair, I suggested to settle for 0.6 percent instead of 1 percent, but this was faced by determination by the journalists and their union to obtain their rights without any decrement. The latest measures taken in the newspapers are meant to preserve the journalistic family and the national role it plays. There will be other changes soon to deal with journalists' representation on the newspapers' boards of directors, distribution, and advertisement.

AL-DUSTUR: What about Jordanian-Soviet relations and the attitude toward issues in the region, particularly after "perestroika"?

Al-Khasawinah: It is difficult for any person to expect things, yet, one can make forecasts. The Soviet Union has a new leadership with a new method. The priorities of the leadership there are to renew the Soviet economy and entrench international detente. This detente forces both superpowers to reduce tension and solve regional issues and conflicts. We must be aware of this and of the soundness of the Arab stand and its unity, which we call for in Jordan and which we consider the principal factor to impose our cause on the agendas of Soviet-U.S. contacts and talks.

The strength of our stand will also reflect on the two superpowers' contacts internationally. Luckily, Jordan's relations with the Soviet Union are good. King Husayn and Mikhail Gorbachev are tied by clear friendship.

AL-DUSTUR: There are some who believe that the Aqaba summit was aimed at influencing the Israeli voter. How true is this?

Al-Khasawinah: What is rumored cannot be accepted at all with its wrong assumptions. Also the suggestion that the Aqaba summit was directed at the Israeli voter cannot be accepted, because it was not. This major event has attracted the Arab citizen everywhere and it has influenced international diplomacy. The Israeli side constantly claims that the Arabs do not want a peaceful settlement or peace.

Once again, this meeting proves that Arab states want a just and permanent peace through an international peace conference and that the Israeli side is the side which foiled the peace process. The Aqaba meeting will also remind the world of the intransigent side and the other side which wants, and endeavors for, a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-DUSTUR: The Geneva talks to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran are stumbling. How can we help Iraq in its political battle?

Al-Khasawinah: The Iraqi brothers want to achieve a real and permanent peace with Iran. This, undoubtedly, will achieve the interests of the Arab nation and, equally, those of Iran. We, in Jordan, support Iraq in reaching a real settlement, in which there is no possibility for the continuation of the conflict.

AL-DUSTUR: What about the delayed Arab aid to Jordan. We heard that new payments will be made soon. How true is this?

Al-Khasawinah: The Arab brothers who are committed to backing steadfastness—except Saudi Arabia, which paid all its obligations—have not reneged on their commitments. But they complain of economic recession, lack of resources, and financial and monetary burdens, which they face, and we excuse them.

Through bilateral contacts, they show solidarity with Jordan and readiness to back it and they have not abandoned this. Ties of brotherhood make me feel optimistic that the door of Arab aid will remain open.

AL-DUSTUR: Minister, thank you for this interview.

Syria's Khaddam Arrives With Al-Asad Message

JN2510125488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Amman at noon today on a surprise visit and immediately conferred with Jordanian Monarch King Husayn. Khaddam's arrival comes only 48 hours after the tripartite Aqaba meeting among King husayn, President Mubarak, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat—a meeting which revived the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue which ceased in 1986.

The Husayn-Khaddam meeting, which included a working luncheon at Al-Nadwah Palace, was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who received the Syrian guest as he arrived in Amman. It was also attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Our radio has learned from an authorized Jordanian source that Jordan favors holding an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis. The source added that a Saudi-Jordanian meeting on the highest level will be held shortly to discuss the possibility of holding an ordinary summit in Saudi Arabia as soon as possible, or an emergency summit in another Arab state. We have learned that Amman will propose holding the emergency summit in Baghdad because of Iraq's prestigious Arab position, the same source told us.

The Syrian official is expected to leave Amman for home this afternoon.

Makes Comments, Leaves

JN2510163688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who handed his majesty a message from His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of senior officials.

Meanwhile, Khaddam said the message he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn deals with the current situation and developments in the Arab arena, as well as developments in Lebanon. In a press statement before departing Amman this evening, Khaddam said that viewpoints were exchanged on these developments. He said there was agreement on the importance of enhancing Lebanon's unity and stability and achieving national accord and political reforms in Lebanon.

He added: As Arabs, we are interested in the situation in Lebanon, as it is an Arab country. We are also interested in the developments of this situation. He added. We also agreed that the unity of Lebanon is the dear and precious objective. We work for the maintenance and protection of this unity.

Khaddam was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, a number of ministers, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Envoy Summoned To Explain Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

NC2510124188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Salah Sutaytiyah, the director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, today summoned 'Ashur al-Furtas, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Lebanon, and asked him about reported statements by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi regarding the situation in Lebanon.

After the meeting, Al-Furtas said Libya's position is to always stand on the side of a united Lebanon—its land, people, and institutions.

Al-Huss Cabinet Views Arab Positions, Security

NC2510150088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss chaired a cabinet session in Government House today, attended by Ministers Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, 'Adil 'Usayran, Walid Junblatt, and Nabih Birri. The cabinet discussed all aspects of the developments on the domestic front.

PSP leader Minister Walid Junblatt left the session at 1230 without making any statement. Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri left at 1330, describing the session as a regular one and stressing that everything is fine. Birri answered a question by saying: Many people in the Arab world are changing their positions.

For his part, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, deputy prime minister and interior minister, invited journalists to his office to discuss public security issues. Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran said that a statement will be issued about the session.

Following the meeting, Cabinet Secretary General Hisham al-Sha'ar said:

The cabinet convened at Government House on the morning of 25 October. Prime Minister Salim al-Huss chaired the session, which was attended by Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt.

The cabinet discussed topical political issues as well as reports concerning the positions of some Arab countries. Prime Minister al-Huss praised the current Arab efforts to hold an Arab summit to discuss Lebanon. Al-Huss called for the pursuit of sober and just policies to ensure the preservation of Lebanon's unity, dignity, sovereignty, and Arab orientation and to help find a solution to the country's problems. Al-Huss declared that any solution to Lebanon's problems must be based upon the principles of democracy, justice, and equality. He emphasized that Arab differences should not become an additional cause to exacerbate an already complicated crisis.

During the session, Al-Rasi briefed the cabinet on his consultations over the issue of preserving the unity of the public security institution, a matter he described as having a consequence on the public interest. The cabinet decided to prohibit the officials currently in charge of the General Directorate of Public Security from taking any unilateral action which could have undesirable consequences.

In this respect, the cabinet instructed the Foreign Ministry to inform diplomatic missions that they should disregard any government transaction with the General Directorate of Public Security signed after 23 September 1988. The cabinet implemented this measure to safeguard the unity of the said institution.

The cabinet also discussed general administrative affairs and issued the necessary instructions. It also discussed other issues on the agenda and took appropriate action.

Interior Ministry Issues Security Directive

NC2510173688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi has issued the following directive:

On the basis of the decision adopted by the Cabinet on 13 October 1988 regarding the appointment of Brigadier General Nadim Lutayf to the post of director general of public security as null and void, all the public security departments, offices, and centers are requested to abide by the following:

1. Not to accept or implement any transaction issued by the Public Security Directorate General that bears the signature or seal of Brig Gen Nadim Lutayf.

2. Not to permit any traveler bearing a document signed by Brig Gen Nadim Lutayf, or by distinguished commissioners Michel al-Khuri, Nabil Khayrallah, and Antoine Jubaylah, to leave the country.

3. To acknowledge the signatures of the original heads of the publications, aliens, immigration, and passports departments; namely, distinguished commissioners As'ad al-Taqs, Hasan al-Sab', and Hafiz Shihadah.

Arab League's Chedli Klibi Meets Delegate

NC2410203488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has met with the UAE delegate to the Arab League and discussed with him the call to convene a meeting of Arab foreign ministers. Klibi had met earlier with Lebanese delegate to the Arab League, Ambassador Sulayman Farah, and briefed him on the results of the consultations he is holding on the issue of convening an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

Ambassador Farah notified Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, about the results of his meeting with Klibi. Ambassador Abu al-Lam' also has received a call from Zafir al-Hasan, Lebanese ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who briefed him on the Saudi efforts regarding Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Increase Gunboat Patrols

NC2510084188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have addressed an ultimatum to the Armenian leaderships in Burj Hammud and Antilyas [in east Beirut] that they should hand over their weapons.

In another development, security reports indicate that the Lebanese Forces have recently stepped up their gunboat patrols in territorial waters, particularly off Corniche al-Manarah. The searchlights of these boats are noticed almost every day, particularly at sunset and at night. The troops manning these boats threaten fishermen and force them to return to shore.

'Alleged Pressures' on Armenians Denied

NC2510115988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Christian Democratic Socialist Party has reacted to reports distributed by biased mass media about alleged pressures on Armenian citizens in the eastern area [of Beirut].

The party's secretary, General Walid Faris, has asserted that these rumors will not deceive citizens in the eastern area. He added that the confrontation in Lebanon is between a scheme to consecrate the occupation and another plan which seeks to drive out foreign forces from the country and establish a just, democratic, and pluralistic system. He also said that throughout the war, our Armenian comrades have proven that they are an inseparable part of the resisting Lebanese community.

Syrian Soldiers Injured in Al-Biqa' Explosion

Bus Carrying Soldiers Hit

NC2510141888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] According to a security report, a booby-trapped Mercedes exploded in the area of Barr Ilyas in western Al-Biqa' at 1245 today. Citing security sources, REUTER reports that a bus carrying Syrian soldiers in Al-Biqa' was hit by the explosion and that several persons were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, unofficial security sources have reported that the booby-trapped car explosion left four persons injured and caused property damage.

REUTER adds that the car exploded as the bus was passing on the Barr Ilyas-al-Masna' crossroads.

Bus Target of Car Bomb

NC2510161688 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Oct 25 (AFP)—A car bomb exploded Tuesday near the Syrian border in eastern Lebanon, injuring several Syrian soldiers and Lebanese civilians, police said.

Syrian troops closed off the scene of the blast, near the Lebanese border post of Al-Masna', and police were unable to provide a precise account of casualties.

But they said a white Mercedes, loaded with TNT, exploded early Tuesday afternoon at a point on the Beirut-Damascus Highway as a bus carrying Syrian troops was passing by.

Two cars following the bus, which was headed toward Damascus, were also damaged in the blast. One of the vehicles was carrying Syrian officers, the other was transporting Lebanese civilians. [passage omitted]

10 Syrians Injured

NC2510175588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The booby-trapped car which exploded this afternoon at the Barr-Ilyas-al-Masna' crossroads in Al-Biqa' left 10 wounded in the ranks of the Syrian occupation forces. A foreign news agency cited Lebanese security sources as saying that the car bomb exploded as a bus carrying Syrian soldiers was passing. The car, a Mercedes, was rigged with approximately 50 kg of TNT and parked near 'Ali 'Amir shops. [passage omitted]

Further on Israeli Military Operations

'Security Source' on Deployment

NC2510193888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Citing a security source in the Rashayya area, AFP has reported that approximately 700 Israeli soldiers and 45 armored vehicles arrived in south Lebanon from Israel this evening and deployed on the northeastern side of the security zone.

The source noted that, at approximately 1700 today, the soldiers and armored vehicles, which include Merkava tanks, crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border at a point opposite the Israeli settlement of Metulla and deployed along a 12-km front on the hills overlooking the Shi'ite villages in western Al-Biqa' at a distance of approximately 15 km from Israeli territory.

According to a security source in the South, the Israeli army concentrated 1,500 soldiers, supported by tanks, on the border with Lebanon last Sunday-Monday night.

Reinforcements Detailed

NC2610070588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] In the resisting South, the occupation authorities are bringing in reinforcements and massing troops in the border strip area. They also have carried out search operations in the eastern and western sectors of southern Lebanon.

According to some reports, a force of 15 armored personnel carriers and tanks passed through the crossing point in Metulla yesterday morning and advanced toward Al-Dardarah plain and then toward the Israeli assembly centers on Al-Shariqi hill and Ibil al-Saqy.

In the Al-'Urqub area, 10 armored vehicles were seen advancing toward the Ramta axis, south of Kafr Shuba. The occupation forces also brought long-range artillery into Ibil al-Saqy plain and Wadi Abu Qamhah. Trucks were seen unloading ammunition, including artillery shells.

According to reports from Shab'a, Israeli helicopters yesterday morning landed an Israeli commando force north of occupied Shab'a, about 2 km inside the liberated area. The commandos carried out a combing operation which lasted until the afternoon.

A joint Israeli-Lahd force, consisting of four armored vehicles and about 20 soldiers, entered Shab'a and questioned a number of residents about the movements of resistance fighters in the area. [passage omitted]

Israeli Offensive 'Imminent'

JN2610093288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairam Yasir 'Arafat, said in Baghdad today that the Israeli forces will launch a large-scale offensive against Lebanon within a few hours. Abu Sharif added that information available to him indicates that certain groups of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, under the pretense of liquidating Hizballah, will back this offensive by intensive shelling of Palestinian and Lebanese positions in the Sidon area.

Palestinian Positions Raided

NC2610091788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0910 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A few minutes ago, Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian positions in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Dulb, east of Sidon. We will provide you with further details as soon as they are received.

Second Raid Reported

NC2610092388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0917 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian positions in Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Dulb at approximately 1100 today. No further reports have been received on the raid.

At 1107, the Israeli planes raided the same positions for a second time. They are still flying at low altitude over the area.

Fatah Positions Attacked

NC2610093988 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 26 (AFP)—Israeli war planes on Wednesday attacked Palestinian targets near a refugee camp east of this southern Lebanese port city, correspondents reported.

They said four planes fired air-to-ground missiles at the outskirts of the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah refugee camp, where positions held by Fatah, the mainstream group in the Palestine Liberation Organization, are located.

The city of Sidon was shaken by four powerful explosions as a cloud of thick black smoke rose over the camp.

Israeli aircraft, which attacked targets in southern Lebanon last Friday and Monday, were still circling over the area 20 minutes after the raid this morning.

Raids Result in 5 Casualties

NC2610110188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon 1045 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] According to preliminary reports, the two Israeli air raids at 1100 hours and soon after against Palestinian positions of the Fatah Movement in 'Ayn al-Dulb, Tallat Sirub, and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah in east Sidon have resulted in the death and wounding of five persons and the outbreak of several fires in the bombed Palestinian positions.

Palestinians 'Free' To Attend PNC Session
JN2610085288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today said the Syrian leadership has informed the Palestinian leaderships residing in Damascus that they are absolutely free to define their stands toward participation in the extraordinary PNC session scheduled to convene in Algiers on 12 November in light of the higher Palestinian interests and to safeguard the achievements of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper quoted informed Palestinian sources in Damascus as saying that during a meeting with the leadership of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed Syria will define its stand toward the PNC meetings in the light of its results and resolutions.

Khaddam Returns From 'Working Visit' to Amman
JN2510204288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening after a short working visit to Amman, during which he delivered a message to King Husayn from President Hafiz al-Asad on the current Arab situation.

King Husayn received the vice president this afternoon in the presence of Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Army Commander al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Radio Condemns PLO Call To Arab Voters
JN2510162188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Station comentary]

[Text] Amid Israeli bombardment and shelling of both the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, the sounds of which were still echoing 2 days ago in the camps and villages of the south; at a time when Israeli forces in the occupied part of southern Lebanon are preparing for a new military aggression; at a time when the Likud and Labor Parties are competing to invent more feasible methods to foil the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian right yesterday issued a communique asking Arab citizens in the occupied territories to take part in the next Israeli elections and vote for those whom the communique called the peace-supporting force in the Zionist entity.

This communique comes as another step down the path of deviation begun by the Palestinian right ever since it decided to abandon the Palestinian gun, resort to political maneuvers, and offer successive concessions which squander the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Perhaps this communique is the most dangerous step in the series of concessions. It binds directly or indirectly the fate of the rights of the Palestinian people to the fate of one of the Zionist parties which have ruled this entity alone ever since its establishment until the government of the two heads [Shamir and Peres] was formed a few years ago.

This communique is really the most dangerous because it binds the fate of the Palestinian rights to the fate of the Labor Party elections. It provides this party with the chance to indulge in all previous expansionist wars waged by the successive governments against the Arab heroes. It describes the party as peace-loving. Even the criminal history of the Labor Parties against the Palestinian and Arab people refutes this.

The Palestinian right's concessions have gone to the extent of copying the Palestine question and changing it into mere paper in the Israeli voting box. Fakery and deception in this right-wing party has reached a level that it splits the Labor and Likud Zionists supporting the first as though they were the doves of peace and rejecting the others as though they alone are the hawks of war, aggression, and expansionsim.

The Palestinian right is now rewriting the history of the Palestine question. It is changing and manipulating as it pleases the bases and goals of one Zionist party or the other. All this is happening and the blood of the uprising's martyrs is still being shed every day. The blood of the victims of Zionist aggressions on villages and camps in southern Lebanon has not yet dried.

Now, let us ask, does not the Palestinian right's communique of yesterday mean they are denying the accusations made against the Labor Party of expansionist and aggressive intentions toward the Arab nation at a time when the party itself does not deny its adherence to the occupied Arab territories in Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan, and southern Lebanon?

Finally, the illusions of the Palestinian right will fool no one other than itself. Its panting after the mirages of settlement through concessions, resignations, and submission to Israeli will will no doubt fall very quickly. The constants of the Palestinian struggle will remain clinging to legitimate rights and not denouncing any of them. They are the sturdier and better and this will be proven by time.

Afghanistan

Diplomats Say Party Plenum Ended in 'Chaos'

BK2510121988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 25 Oct 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP)—Sharp differences between rival factions marred a plenum of the Afghan Communist Party in Kabul last week and the meeting broke up in chaos, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

"The plenum held on Wednesday broke up in chaos as some members rejected concessions to the mujahidin (Afghan resistance)," a Western diplomat said.

"The results were not as earthshaking as some had earlier been led to believe," another Western diplomat said of the daylong plenum held under President Najibullah.

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is divided into two factions—Parcham and Khalq—and the plenum was preceded by a three-day wave of arrests in the Afghan capital Kabul.

The police swoops were designed "to prevent party dissidents from voicing opposition to Mr. Najibullah at the plenum," the diplomats said.

State-run Radio Kabul said "a number of people, spreading anti-national security rumours with the object to create panic among the people have been arrested."

More than 300 people were reportedly detained during the raids, including Muhammad Barialay, a half-brother of former President Babrak Karmal who Mr. Najibullah replaced in May 1986.

Afghan Army General Mouammad Yasin Saddiqi, political commissar of the Armed Forces, was also jailed along with Anahita Ratebzad, a long-time associate of Mr. Karmal and a former higher education minister, the diplomats said.

Others jailed were less closely identified with Mr. Karmal but were believed to have used him as a rallying figure, the diplomats added.

Mr. Karmal, a Parchamite, has been in exile in the Soviet Union since he resigned as president and party chief, ostensibly for medical reasons.

Mr. Najibullah succeeded Mr. Karmal as leader of the Parcham-dominated PDPA and purged many supporters of his predecessor, according to Afghan analysts.

The plenum sacked Karmal supporter, 'Abdul Zohur Razmju, from the Politburo and his post as leader of the PDPA's Kabul wing, along with an important Khalq leader Salih Muhammad Ziray.

The diplomats and resistance sources said the internecine fight overshadowed the plenum as members of the Khalq faction opposed efforts by Mr. Najibullah, a Parchamite, to bring the Afghan resistance into a coalition government.

Members of Khalq dominate the Armed Forces but have played a secondary role in the government set up after the Soviet invasion on Christmas Eve 1979.

Hardcore members of the Parcham faction opposed the Soviet troop withdrawal which is to be completed by mid-February, the diplomats said.

Afghan resistance sources in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said that with the apparent failure of Mr. Najibullah's national reconciliation policy, Khalq was expected to gain real power this time.

"Those who say the national reconciliation has not worked out are right. No opposition party has accepted it," Mr. Najibullah reportedly told the plenum. "(But) since it is the only way the policy will continue," he added.

Mr. Najibullah admitted that several cities have fallen to the mujahidin since the Soviet pullout began in May but told his opponents "a few successes do not presage victory," the diplomats said. He added that the resistance can only achieve power through a coalition.

Mr. Najibullah's latest offer to the mujahidin to hold talks on national reconciliation in the Muslim holy city of Mecca was rejected by the rebels.

Only 94 of the 163 full and alternate members of the Central Committee attended the plenum, the diplomats said.

Decisions taken at the meeting included appointing military governors to strengthen control in all Afghan provinces, the diplomats said.

The regime also decided to reduce the number of provinces by merging administration of smaller provinces with adjacent bigger provinces.

The official media said northern Kapisa Province had been merged with Parvan Province, eastern Paktika Province with Paktia Province, and Konarha Province with Nangarhar Province.

The moves would mean the cities of Sharan, Asadabad, and Mahmud-e Raqi, respective capitals of Paktika, Konar and Kapisa Provinces, would cease to exist as provincial capitals.

A diplomat said the Kabul regime reduced their importance with the stroke of a pen believing that "if there were fewer provinces the statistics for capitals held by it would be improved."

Najibullah To Consider Release of FRG Prisoners

LD2510200588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, today received the FRG charge d'affaires at the Presidency in Gol Khanah Palace. During the meeting, the FRG charge d'affaires conveyed a message of the FRG president, His Excellency Richard von Weizsacker, to Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

A section of the message requested Esteemed Najibullah to pardon two FRG citizens who had entered Afghanistan illegally and were captured by the security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. The message stated that this humanitarian act will help to develop and deepen the historic solidarity between the Republic of Afghanistan and the FRG. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah said the FRG has moral and humanitarian obligations to play an extensive role in the international struggle against the devastation of war in our country. In response to the request of his excellency the FRG president, Esteemed Najibullah remarked that in principle he responded favorably to the request of his excellency the president, despite the violation of accepted international norms by the two FRG citizens. He also said that he would arrange for the establishment of a commission to consider the release of the two people.

Esteemed Najibullah asked the FRG charge d'affaires to convey his regards to his excellency, the FRG president, Richard von Weizsacker.

Presidential Decree on Canceling Land Tax Fines

LD2610100488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Presidential Office reported to BIA that in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution and in consideration of Article 30 of the Law on Recovery of Debts, Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has approved the following decree on canceling land tax fines owed by peasants and landowners. The decree is prompted by the humanitarian national reconciliation policy to assist the country's peasants and landowners.

A decree issued by the Republic of Afghanistan president about canceling the land tax owed by peasants fines and landowners:

I approve the following on the basis of Paragraph 16, Article 75 of the Republic of Afghanistan's Constitution [as heard] in order to assist the country's peasants and landowners:

Article 1. The validity period of Decree No 202 of the Revolutionary Council Presidium dated 20 March 1985 about canceling land tax fines owed by peasants and landowners, is to be extended for another 2 years provided the tax alone is being paid until the end of 1368 [begins 21 March 1989] in consideration of the conditions embodied in Article 1 of the above decree.

Article 2. Landowners will be exempted from payment of fines on tax owed for 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] and 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] provided tax is being paid until the end of 1368 [begins 21 March 1989].

Article 3. The state power and administration and local organs should take measures necessary to implement Article 1 and 2 of this decree.

Article 4. The mass media are being instructed to launch effective and extensive propaganda to explain this decree's advantage.

Article 5. This decree is being enforced from the date of presidential assent and is to be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan

Opposition Delegate Elected to Wolasi Jirgah

LD2510232488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Presidency reported that some time ago an election was held in Constituency No 87 of Gowmal District, Paktika Province, one of the areas held by the opposition.

[Words indistinct] and Esteemed Abdurrashid, son of Allahdad, was introduced as a delegate to the Wolasi Jirgah from Constituency No 87 of Gowmal District, and subdistricts of Sarowbi and (Bamal) of Paktika Province. He received 500 votes.

A source concerned with assembly affairs at the Presidency reported that the provincial election commission of Paktika Province has unanimously approved the legality of introducing the above delegate.

After the relevant documents have been assessed by the commission of Wolasi Jirgah, Esteemed Abdurrashid will be recognized as a delegate and representative of the opposition to the Wolasi Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Hikmatyar Interviewed on Soviet Withdrawal, Peace

JN2510150088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 9

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party, by Basil Muhammad in Peshawar; date not given]

[Text] [Muhammad] Mr Gulbuddin, your latest visit to Qandahar Province coincided with reports that were leaked about a secret plan for the return of King Zahir Shah to Afghanistan through this province. What is the truth about this plan? What has been achieved during this visit?

[Hikmatyar] The enemy had actually concocted a serious conspiracy against our holy war in Qandahar Province. There were plans for the provincial governor to join with

a number of mujahidin leaders and proclaim a senate council. According to certain arrangements, this council would then ask Zahir Shah to come back because he belongs to the same tribe. They hoped his tribe would then respond to him and support him. And Zahir Shah, who was rejected by the Afghan people, would come back through a conspiracy from inside Afghanistan and under the umbrella of holy war, and here lies the danger.

The Russians wanted to create internecine conflicts among the mujahidin which would develop into armed clashes, thus negating the victories achieved by the Afghan people throughout the previous years. For this reason, we decided to go to Qandahar in a large convoy of scores of cars. Thanks be to God, the conspiracy was foiled and the enemy did not have the chance to implement it. The city of Spin Buldak, through which they wanted to implement their conspiracy, fell to the mujahidin. The city was of great importance and was the only route leading to Qandahar after the mujahidin had taken the Kabul-Qandahar road and the Qandahar-Herat road.

The city also played a significant role in training the Soviet agents in Pakistan and in the delivery of weapons to the Pakistani forces opposing the government. Additionally, senior mujahidin leaders from the same tribe as Zahir Shah have pledged not to accept any government other than that of the mujahidin—not a coalition government, a neutral government, or the phony senate council.

[Muhammad] Then, in your opinion, where are the Soviet efforts—to secure political superiority in their favor—heading as the date for complete withdrawal approaches?

[Hikmatyar] Because Moscow realizes that to continue the occupation is impossible and has decided to pull out, the Soviet Government is now more certain that the Najibullah government cannot resist alone and will quickly fall. Therefore, they wanted to anticipate events and began to search for a replacement for Najibullah. They suggested that they bring in a person like Dr Yusuf [not further identified]; this was the suggestion of Zahir Shah and Shevardnadze. Through Cordovez, they presented another conspiracy in the name of a neutral government to be formed by a senate comprising 30 neutral men that Cordovez claims he collected in a list.

However, we do not know in whose testimony and in what capacity these people have been labeled neutral. What we do know is that the agreement was reached between the East and the West, but definitely not in the interest of our holy war. Many world governments do not want to see a mujahidin government in Afghanistan, but everybody should know that a solution without the mujahidin is impractical, and without the mujahidin, no one can rule Afghanistan.

[Muhammad] What about the traditional tribal solution, the "Loya Jirgah"?

[Hikmatyar] It is also an impractical solution backed by Western governments. I ask: Why do they support free elections in their countries, but allow only this tribal system for us? Why do they concentrate solely on this? It is because they know that if free elections were held in Afghanistan, the people would vote for an Islamic government and accept no other form of government. If, on the other hand, voting was on a tribal basis involving a few traditional leaders, these leaders could be bought, particularly if they were notables in former governments. These leaders would inpose the former system and work hard to propagate the "Loya Jirgah" as if it were the only acceptable system for the problem.

[Muhammad] The Pakistani newspaper FRONTIER POST has recently published a statement by Yevgeniy Brakov, adviser to Gorbachev and member of the CPSU Central Committee, in which he referred to Moscow's readiness to negotiate with a coalition of the mujahidin parties to achieve peace in Afghanistan under a coalition government. Do you see any new position in this statement?

[Hikmatyar] There is nothing new in the statement, and we completely reject it. We firmly believe that any negotiations will not succeed unless they are directly held between the mujahidin and Moscow because they are the main parties to the conflict and because they are confronting each other in the battlefield. Therefore, they should also hold the negotiations face to face.

[Muhammad] Do you think the Soviets understand this and take this point into consideration?

[Hikmatyar] The Soviets are thinking about direct negotiations with the mujahidin, even without Najibullah's government. We have received such information through mediators, but the Soviets have not yet announced it officially.

[Muhammad] Is Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi's recent visit to Pakistan part of that mediation?

[Hikmatyar] Dr al-Dawalibi visited Moscow, met a number of officials there, and made a specific proposal to us regarding the direct negotiations.

[Muhammad] Did Dr Ma'ruf convey a direct proposal or an official message to you?

[Hikmatyar] There was no official message or mission. It was only a personal effort. Therefore, I cannot say he was authorized by Moscow to act. He made a personal proposal to the Soviet officials and the mujahidin to hold direct negotiations. He also proposed that other parties participate in the negotiations. We told him there is no need for such a proposal at present because further discussions are needed.

[Muhammad] Were there new contacts or mediation attempts other than this visit?

[Hikmatyar] Yes, there have been others, which will be publicized at the appropriate time.

[Muhammad] How do you view the future relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union if contacts lead to withdrawal?

[Hikmatyar] We want to establish good and normal relations with all states and governments on the condition that they do not interfere in our country's domestic affairs, they refrain from moving their agents, and they do not achieve their interests at our expense.

[Muhammad] The mujahidin announced more than once that they entered the southern borders of the Soviet Union in their military operations. Besides, some of their leaders said that they seek to continue the holy war until Bukhara is liberated. Will this position remain unchanged if direct negotiations between you and the Soviets begin?

[Hikmatyar] These statements were not an expression of the official position of the mujahidin. No, they were personal slogans. Moreover, there certainly is a difference between these two things. Our official slogans right now are the following: the liberation of Afghanistan, securing the withdrawal of foreign troops from our territory, and the establishment of an Islamic government. As for the military attacks and operations, they were mujahidin attacks and operations that actually targeted Soviet units inside Russian territory. It must be recalled that the Soviet troops used to enter Afghanistan and massacre the mujahidin and the civilians there. That is why we carried out these operations. We will continue to carry out these operations in retaliation for the aggression and occupation. This is our right.

[Muhammad] Will these operations stop once the occupation is terminated?

[Hikmatyar] This is contingent upon the Russians' policy. If Moscow seeks to establish ties of friendship with the Afghan people and ends its interference, we will respond positively.

[Muhammad] What about the Soviet POW's? What is their actual number? And what are the prospects of effecting an exchange of the Soviet POW's for mujahidin POW's?

[Hikmatyar] We have decided not to announce the number of [Soviet] POW's we have. We agreed to stop the exchange of POW's after the signing of the Geneva agreements and to postpone it until Afghanistan is liberated.

[Muhammad] Conversely, what do you think is the number of mujahidin POW's?

[Hikmatyar] The number is more than 35,000 mujahidin, including their families who were taken as hostages. The fate of all these people is not known. It is not known whether these people are dead or alive, whether they are being held in Afghanistan or in Soviet prisons. Their relatives are still waiting to hear about them.

[Muhammad] A few days ago, Shevardnadze threatened to stop troop withdrawal from Afghanistan because of what he called violations of the Geneva agreements. Do you think these threats by the Soviet minister are serious?

[Hikmatyar] With all confidence, I tell you that the Russians have no choice but to withdraw. These statements are no more than threats voiced at a certain juncture. The evidence corroborating my explanation is that they announced this morning a denial of the statement made by Shevardnadze.

[Muhammad] Then, you really believe that the withdrawal will be completed by the beginning of February?

[Hikmatyar] Yes, the Russians will withdraw during the coming phase.

[Muhammad] What are your expectations if the political crises continues unresolved in the absence of a specific formula within this framework?

[Hikmatyar] The Najibullah government will fall and be replaced by a mujahidin government.

[Muhammad] What about the prospect of the entry of a new pro-Soviet force under the guise of buffer forces, for example?

[Hikmatyar] I do not think that this can be achieved. I do not think that any other country will have the courage to repeat the same role played by the Russians after the Russians' defeat in Afghanistan.

[Muhammad] The Pakistani elections are coming soon. To which of the competing parties does the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Holy Warriors ally itself?

[Hikmatyar] We do not interfere in Pakistani affairs. We entreat Almighty God to make those who support the idea of establishing an Islamic government in Pakistan, who seek to establish that government, and who also support the holy war in Afghanistan win the elections.

[Muhammad] Do you not believe that the success of the leftist candidates in these elections might influence your holy war?

[Hikmatyar] I do not think that the left in Pakistan will be successful. Despite the external support provided for the leftist parties, they are too weak to win the elections; they are not popular enough.

106th Note on Violations Given to UN Mission

LD2510190288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Note No 106 of the Afghan Republic's Foreign Ministry on Pakistan's blatant violations of the provisions of Geneva accords was handed over this afternoon to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul.

This note gives detailed information to UNGOMAP about the recent explosions which took place in various crowded areas of Kabul city by the extremist groups with the direct cooperation and encouragement of Pakistan and which caused the martyrdom of and injury to our innocent compatriots. The UNGOMAP has been asked to investigate these violations by Pakistan and to pass on the results to the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general.

U.S., Arab Advisers Killed in Paktia Operation

LD2510173388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] As a result of mopping operations by the Armed Forces, 43 extremists attached to groups protected by the United States and Pakistan were crushed today in areas of Paktia Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that 24 extremists were seriously injured and 6 U.S. and Arab advisers accompanying them were killed during the operation.

The report adds that two enemy trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition, two 122-mm artillery pieces, four rocket launchers, and hundreds of light weapons were destroyed.

'Extremists Crushed' in Three Provinces

LD2510150188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that in Maywand District, Qandahar Province yesterday the Armed Forces crushed five people belonging to extremist groups under the protection of the United States and Pakistan. Another five were seriously injured. A quantity of weapons and ammunition belonging to the enemy has been destroyed.

As a result of operations yesterday by the Armed Forces in Kameh and Nader Shah Kowt Districts, Nangarhar Province, four extremists were crushed and six others were captured together with their weapons.

Another report states that 11 people belonging the extremist groups protected by the United States and Pakistan were crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces in Qalat city, Zabol Province. A large quantity of enemy weapons and ammunition has been destroyed.

Mujahidin Down Helicopter, Beseige Qalat

BK2510133088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Oct 25 (AFP)—Afghan rebels Friday shot down a helicopter that was bombing their positions along with other Afghan Air Force planes around southern Qalat town, resistance sources here said Tuesday.

The sources said all on board the helicopter were killed when it was hit by a surface-to-surface missile fired by the mujahidin who have "practically beseiged the town", the capital of Zabol Province.

The Afghan planes and helicopters carry out three to four sorties every day and bomb rebel positions, the sources said without giving casualty figures among the mujahidin.

On October 16 mujahidin guerrillas ambushed a convoy of Afghan militia and killed 15 of them in the suburbs of Qalat, the sources said.

The sources said 20 mujahidin were killed and 40 injured when several Afghan planes bombed their positions in Shaharabad area of western Farah Province on Wednesday. Many civilians were killed and a number of houses destroyed in the air raid, the sources added.

Islamabad Reports Various Mujahidin Operations

BK2510160188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Some 1,000 soldiers have been dispatched from Kabul base by air to assist the communist forces in Qandahar where the mujahidin are increasing their pressure. The mujahidin, after capturing (Tor Qotol), are maintaining their advance toward the Qandahar airport. Several severe clashes occurred in the region and the Kabul forces heavily shelled the area to check the mujahidin advance.

In Paktia Province, the mujahidin seized a security post near Matun on Thursday [20 October]. Other security posts are reported to be under mujahidin control. A brigade commander and a large number of Kabul forces were killed during the fight for the Matun post.

In Parvan Province, the mujahidin attacked a military convoy in the southern region of the Salang tunnel last Thursday and destroyed six vehicles and oil tankers.

In Helmand Province, the mujahidin inflicted heavy casualties to the Kabul forces in several operations around Kajaki, which is under siege by the mujahidin.

According to another report, agitated people prevented Afghan Prime Minister Hasan Sharq from entering the Pol-e Khalqi Mosque in the central area of the Afghan capital because of the anti-Islamic posture of the Kabul regime. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Ershad Lifts Ban on Two Daily Newspapers

BK2510161788 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The ban on the publication of the DAINIK BANGLAR BANI and DAINIK INQILAB has been lifted. President Ershad ordered lifting the ban on the auspicious occasion of 'Id-i Miladunnabi [the prophet's birthday], considering the sufferings of the journalists and other employees of the two dailies. The leaders of the journalists union met the president early this month and requested him to withdraw the ban on the publication of these newspapers.

India

Government Concerned Over Burma Border Situation

BK2610101288 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Oct 88 p 1

[By Dulal Bora]

[Text] Moreh (Indo-Burma border)—Indian authorities have become apprehensive of the situation along the Indo-Burma border, particularly at Moreh, where fleeing Burmese nationals are seeking shelter since 9 October.

In view of the reports of increasing repression by the Burmese army on the other side of the border, the Indian authorities here have sent out SOS to their respective headquarters asking them to shift the Burmese student leaders who have entered the country to some other place so as to avoid any unpleasant development between the two countries.

Subdivisional officer of Tenugopal, Amunindra Singh, who is the highest civil official stationed at Moreh, told PATRIOT on Saturday last that the presence of the Burmese leaders in the town might invite some problems. "We are committed to provide protection and security to these persons", he said, adding "but from the practical point of view it would be inconvenient to keep them here for long".

Similar opinion was expressed by Deputy Commissioner of BSF [Border Security Force] B.D. Prajapati. According to him as "there is almost free movement of the local people up to 20 kms inside of both the countries guaranteed under the Indo-Burma agreement and as the whole township of Moreh is within less than a kilometer radius from the international border, the security of these Burmese leaders here will always be risky".

The Indian authorities here do not even rule out any desperate action from the Burmese army. Reports suggest that the Burmese armymen have been frequently visiting the other side of the border.

In view of all this the Manipur police and the two companies of BSF stationed here have intensified night patrolling.

The border check-posts have been strengthened to check people from crossing over, especially those possessing arms and ammunition.

The Burmese student leaders have been kept in a private building here. They are not allowed to come out and mix with the local people. Outsiders, even the journalists, are not allowed to meet them.

"We can allow the journalists to meet the Burmese leaders only after getting specific instructions from above", said Mr Munidra Singh, the SDO [subdivisional officer] of Tenugopal.

Meanwhile, the number of Burmese nationals taking shelter here has swelled to 46. The latest group of 19, all students from Mandalay, except one teacher who led their journey, arrived here on 14 October.

According to a source some more persons, mostly doctors, are awaiting in the nearby areas of Tamu in Burma to cross over.

The local Sunrise Youth Club has been giving shelter to all these people. The club is running a camp for the fleeing Burmese to provide food and shelter.

A government medical team led by Chandel District medical officer visited the camp on 15 October and innoculated the inmates with cholera vaccines.

PTI adds: Manipur Chief Minister R.K. Jaichandra Singh, would rehabilitate the fleeing refugees and construct "kutcha" [not concrete] houses to accommodate them, who included students, a doctor, two teachers and the editor.

At least 10,000 Burmese civilians have been killed by army authorities since the crackdown on civilians there, a Burmese newspaper editor, who has sought refuge here, alleged today.

Mr Althan Moriad, editor of FIGHTING PEACOCKS told PTI 16 students, who ran away from Mandalay, the second largest city after Rangoon for Moreh, were arrested Friday last by the Burmese army at Tamu, about 2 km from Moreh.

The whereabouts of another five students from Tamu, who had also been arrested, were still not known.

The Burmese authorities had also banned publication of 15 English and Burmese dailies.

Iran

Peace Talks To Resume in Geneva 'Next Week'

NC2610082988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Report by unidentified correspondent for Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London, date not given—recorded]

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar invited the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers to meet in Geneva next week to continue talks on implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598. This will be the fourth round of trilateral talks among the foreign ministers of Iran, Iraq and the UN secretary general since the month of Mordad [month ending 22 August].

The talks on implementing Resolution No 598 were stymied and hampered immediately after they commenced, in the very first round in Geneva, due to the introduction of issues removed from the resolution's framework by the Iraqi delegation. In the last round of talks in New York, the UN secretary general presented a new plan including a timetable for withdrawal of the two sides' forces to internationally recognized borders, in accordance with the 1975 agreement, a simultaneous exchange of POW's, and Iran's refraining from exercise of its legitimate right to inspect foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf during their passage across the Islamic Republic of Iran's territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz. These will form the main focus of discussion in the upcoming round of Geneva talks.

In the past few weeks, the Islamic Republic of Iran has responded positively to the UN secretary general's proposed plan and requested that talks be confined to the (?context of the resolution) for purposes of abiding strictly by the priorities of Resolution No 598, on the basis of the UN secretary general's plan for its implementation.

Foreign Minister Velayati on Cease-Fire Talks

PM2510114188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Oct 88 p 18

[Exclusive interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and two members of the negotiating team to the Iran-Iraq peace talks in New York, Sirus Naseri and Javad Zarif, by unidentified correspondents; date, place given]

[Text] [KEYHAN] Much has been said about the talks between Iran and Iraq, several sessions of which already have taken place. This seems to be a good place to start for a general overview of the current negotiations and the results of the latest round of discussions.

[Velayati] Our people and our press are more or less familiar with what has gone on so far. This means that as far as the media are concerned, and as far as we have been able to talk, we have mentioned the issues. Thank God, what has been necessary to publish so far has been published. Today, we would like to discuss what we have to tell the people.

As I said in my previous interview with KEYHAN, the New York talks were aimed at completing part one of Resolution No 598 and at setting an agenda for the other seven points. This was the goal announced by the UN secretary general's special representative in Geneva to the two teams from Iran and Iraq. When we went to New York, of course, some work was done. It is necessary for me to make a point at this stage: Something is announced before the negotiations start. Something else is achieved at the end of the whole thing. The question is: What happened to all the programs that were set out? The difference between the plans and what actually happens is the difference between words and actions. It is the same for other issues.

In executive matters inside the country, where there are no foreigners involved, the planners always plan something and, in action, it turns out to be something else—perhaps not 100 percent of the goals at the outset. This happens quite often. Here, we have the mediator, in this case someone from the United Nations, a representative of the secretary general, announce a plan, with his understanding of the situation. Because many factors and elements are involved in the progress of this matter and because not all these factors can be controlled by the secretary general, perhaps there will not be a 100 percent success rate for all the things that had been announced. This is what has occurred here.

What this gentleman has in mind is announced, then depending on each side's cooperation with the secretary general, this work progresses—slowly or rapidly. With regard to our recognition of the other party involved, we know that it so far has engaged in a great deal of obstructionism. It has brought up many side issues, diverting the discussions. All this diminishes the effort to achieve progress in the execution of the resolution.

[KEYHAN] With regard to the side issues, such as the dredging of the Arvand River, how can the secretary general's representative say we have talked about the issues in the resolution? Has Iraq forgotten about the issues that it brought up?

[Velayati] They have not said anything like that—that they have forgotten about an issue or changed their mind. But all in all we can say that the positions in New York have been closer to what they should be.

The issue of the Arvand River involved two problems as far as we were concerned. One, it was not the time to talk about it. Two, that type of request was irrelevant. It was not the right time because it was brought up alongside the cease-fire and as part of the cease-fire negotiations. It was irrelevant because they were hinting in their official talks and speaking openly outside the conference room

in such a way as to damage the 1975 accord, a major portion of which deals with the type of law governing the sovereignty of the Arvand River.

These were the two major problems. Otherwise, in basic terms, we have no objection at all to the dredging of the Arvand River. It can start now, but according to plans. And, it should not be connected with the cease-fire. It is not mentioned in the resolution as part of the cease-fire package and it is not a part of the secretary general's plans. We are ready to act in accordance with the details of the 1975 accord. If we put the C.B.C. room [as published] which is the center of coordination for the supervision of the Arvand River, including all shipping and dredging operations, at the center of things, there will be no problems. What would happen then is that we would agree to C.B.C. holding the meetings. The two sides should each send two people who could meet and get on with the work.

[KEYHAN] There was a series of reactions abroad following your return to Iran and your comments that an agreement had been reached in New York. The most obvious of these reactions came from the Iraqis who expressed surprise at what you termed agreements.

[Velayati] What I said was that we had made some progress. This was not our understanding but the general feeling that the secretary general had about the negotiations. After the Security Council session which had met to hear his report on the New York talks, the secretary gave an interview in which he expressed my words exactly. A journalist then asked him what he thought about the differences of views concerning progress in the talks between the Iranian foreign minister and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry team. He said they were both telling the truth. One view about the secretary's comments is that perhaps both countries are expressing their own feelings.

What the secretary general said for certain was that the negotiations had made some progress, but that this was slow. I said nothing other than this. I now believe the same thing. I think the talks made some progress, but the reason Iraq said what it did was perhaps because in Geneva they said the negotiations should be held in Geneva. After that, they were put under more and more pressure to go to New York and finally they stepped back and said they would go to New York but that the talks there would be general and not substantive. When they came to New York, they even held substantial talks and in several session at that.

In general, what they did was not very wise—to say that we will not talk in New York and then we will not hold substantial talks. If the two countries seek peace and if Iraq claims to want peace, then the venue of the talks and the time of the talks should not have an effect. Everything is ready in New York—the secretary general is there and the two sides are there. Now if one side pulls back, this is childish. So, it did not happen as they thought and what happened was logical. The talks were held in New York, they were substantial, and some progress was made.

[KEYHAN] Following the meeting between [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz and his U.S. counterpart, the propaganda attacks by the American media which had gone on for several weeks, diminished. Why do you think this is?

[Velayati] We do not know what goes on inside their heads, but it could be surmised that they had reached some sort of agreement, that there was some sort of promise. A Western foreign minister, perhaps British, said that the Iraqis had promised not to do these sorts of things before—use chemical weapons. This in itself shows that there was some sort of promise.

[KEYHAN] Has Iraq abandoned its position on the dredging of the Arvand River?

[Velayati] This is a totally false position against which we stand firmly and also which is not accepted by any other responsible parties. Therefore, the Iraqi demands must to be guided toward a logical direction until a just, lasting, and overall peace is achieved.

Guiding the talks is up to the secretary general. It is he who comes up with a package to present to the two sides and then the two sides will give their views. Based on those views, the secretary comes up with a new package. This has happened so far perhaps dozens of times during the three rounds of talks. Sometimes these suggestions are given in writing and sometimes they are verbal, between the secretary and the ministers or between the secretary's colleagues and the ministers' colleagues. In all these comings and goings, a final solution gradually comes to light.

[KEYHAN] Is a change in the agenda up to the secretary general?

[Velayati] Yes, it is.

[KEYHAN] With regard to a return to international borders, it is being said that Iraq is claiming these borders are not defined. Thereby, it wants another agreement signed between the two parties other than the 1975 accord. What do you think about this?

[Naseri] The pulling back up to the borders is a major part of Resolution No 598. It is part of the resolution which has to come about. It goes back to the charter and here the Security Council bears a great responsibility which must be met. In official negotiations so far we have not heard the Iraqi side mention a problem with regard to the borders as far as the pullback is concerned. Quite the opposite, it has been brought up in the talks quite openly that the pullback has to be complete. This means that the pullback has to be

done up to the internationally recognized borders set by the 1975 accord. This is what the observation has to be about. The secretary general also has agreed to and confirmed this issue.

[KEYHAN] Why then has there been a delay in this regard?

[Naseri] In general, the talks in New York were supposed to be aimed at achieving Paragraph 1 of the resolution and there was supposed to have been a definite agreement on this. The same thing goes for an exchange of prisoners—but the emphasis was on Paragraph 1.

What we understand from the viewpoint of the secretary general and the Security Council is that the issue of the pullback is very important and that a cease-fire would not be completed without it. It cannot be said that the overall trend of the resolution has been in the right direction until pullback is achieved. After that, it could be said that we are on the road to achieving an end to hostilities.

The reason the pullback has not taken place is because Iraq brings up issues which are out of place. This is quite clear, and has been commented on several times. The pullback has not been accomplished because Iraq has brought up two issues out of turn. It has said that the dredging of the Arvand River must be part of the cease-fire, and this is one claim that is easy to deny. As far as we have been able to tell, Security Council members also agree that the cease- fire talks are no place to discuss dredging, so this cannot be considered a precondition to the execution of paragraph one which includes the pullback.

There is room for discussion when it comes to freedom of navigation, which means a halt to the searching of ships. We have not closed the doors in this regard based on international law. Our view is that a cease-fire does not necessarily mean an end to hostilities and that we still have the right to search ships. This is both our right and a logical assumption. Until such time that we are sure about an end to hostilities, we have to exercise that right to make certain that the opposite side does not increase its military capability right in front of our eyes.

This military strength could be dangerous for us. We can only give up at a time when we can be sure that at least under the present circumstances there would be no danger for us. This reasoning is understood by the secretary general and council members. Now the question is: When will Iraq accept this logic, or can it come to this conclusion quickly itself, in which case we think that the execution of the various bits of the resolution could be made easy. The second issue is just how far the secretary and the council are prepared to pursue this issue. They must make Iraq understand that it has no choice but to follow this path.

The reason this has not been done so far is that in talks of such complexity there must be a time limit to achieve the goals. As far as we are concerned, there so far has been a delay, things should have gone faster, the execution of the resolution should have been achieved, and we should not have stopped at the first paragraph. This is the view that we have expressed to the secretary and the council.

Our feeling is that the understanding of our position by the secretary and the council has deepened since the first days. We think that sooner or later Iraq will understand that there is no other way than to carry out the details of Resolution No 598.

There are lots of interpretations as to what lies behind Iraq's official statements in the way of motives. One of these is the same one you mentioned, that Iraq wrongly thinks that it has leverage when it comes to the resolution which it can use to gain points. Of course, there is no question of bonus points and there is no place for them. The 1975 accord is definite and there is no doubt about that. Iraqi officials' comments on the subject is not going to damage that accord.

[KEYHAN] Did the Iraqis not mention the 1975 accords?

[Naseri] The Iraqis never once mentioned the 1975 accord in the talks in Geneva and New York.

[KEYHAN] The Iraqis are claiming that one part of the 1975 accord was never put into action.

[Velayati] We can conclude from that remark that the most Iraq could want is the full implementation of the 1975 accord, which does not mean the rejection of the accord.

[KEYHAN] Does the issue of the direction of the Arvand River mentioned by the Iraqis have any legal ground?

[Zarif] The change of directions in the Arvand River as mentioned by the Iraqis has no legal standing at all. According to the 1975 agreement, any changes in the river which prevents its being used for its main purpose set out in the agreement is illegal and impossible.

I now take this chance to mention something about the withdrawal. Resolution No 598 mentions withdrawal quite clearly. The pullback up to the international borders is very clear. There is an unbreakable agreement between the two sides and it is this agreement which defines the international borders. These same borders are recognized by the Security Council, the international community, and the Secretariat of the United Nations as the international borders.

[KEYHAN] Keeping in mind Iraq's position and its actions following the acceptance of the resolution by Iran and throughout the negotiations, what is the limit for patience shown toward Iraq? How willing are the council and the secretary to put up with Iraq's excuses?

[Velayati] There is a limit to the patience of the secretary general and the Security Council in regard to Iraq's excuses. If it goes beyond that limit it will draw reaction from the United Nations, the Security Council, and the secretary himself.

Of course, the political tendencies of the member countries of the United Nations are also noted at this point and it cannot be said that they are all dedicated to seeing justice in the world, including the issue of Iran and Iraq. But so far most of the Security Council members have shown that they wish to see Resolution No 598 implemented within the framework of the secretary's recommendations. The secretary also has shown that he is very serious in this important matter. Whether the secretary's methods are slow or fast goes back to the methods that each politician has and this is something that one cannot impose on someone else.

This gentleman thinks that this way is closer to the goal and this can take him to his goal. A very important duty has been given to the secretary general and he wants to be successful in his work. Of course, it would not be very pleasant for him to have his work delayed and the peace process and trend of the negotiations slowed. So it is not necessary for people to constantly ask the secretary general to speed up his work. He himself has a very strong motive to finish the job.

[KEYHAN] Could you please summarize your talks in New York with other foreign ministers, especially those of the Council?

[Velayati] The most important topic of my discussions with other foreign ministers, Council members or not, focused on the Iran-Iraq issue and on Iran's position. This is very necessary because UN members must know all the issues, as Resolution No 598 belongs to the United Nations. As members, these countries want this resolution to be implemented. The other topic was bilateral relations and the third was international and regional questions.

[KEYHAN] With what Security Council members did you meet?

[Velayati] Four permanent members, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China.

[KEYHAN] How do they feel about the progress of the talks?

[Velayati] Our feeling was that all four members wanted to see Resolution No 598 implemented and they are against any delays in the resolution's work.

[KEYHAN] You also met in New York with Kuwait's foreign minister. What was the focus of your talks? Were the talks useful in bringing closer the views of the two countries?

[Velayati] Following the acceptance of the resolution, the end to the war, and the beginning of a better political period in the region, our relations with Kuwait will of course change as well. This is natural and expected. We talked about strengthening our embassies and more regional cooperation. As far as I am concerned, my talks with Shaykh Sabah were positive and we can expect more positive developments in the relations between the two countries in future. From the comments made by Shaykh Sabah, it appeared that Kuwait in future will adopt a more friendly policy toward Iran.

Tehran on U.S. Visa Refusal for Official

LD2510125488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Iranian chairman of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva returned to Tehran yesterday after not receiving an entry visa from the U.S. Government. As chairman of the disarmament conference, Mr Ardakani was to submit a 300-page report on the conference to the UN General Assembly for final approval.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as rotational chairman by the countries taking part in the Disarmament Conference and will remain in that post until the winter session and the election of the next rotational chairman.

As justification of their refusal to grant an entry visa to the chairman of the Disarmament Conference U.S. officials reasoned that he is considered disruptive to U.S. security. Although the U.S. Government has attempted to justify this action, it is obvious that this action is clearly contrary to international regulations, for in the first place, as the representative and head of an international organization the chairman of the Disarmament Conference had intended to enter the United States to attend the UN General Assembly.

A number of international organizations, the United Nations and its subsidiaries, are situated in the United States and the U.S. Government has refused entry visas to diplomats from various countries with excuses of this sort. During the current session of the UN General Assembly the U.S. Government refused to grant entry permits to several diplomats in the Nicaraguan delegation, following which the Nicaraguan president in protest canceled his trip to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly.

Despite the contravention by the U.S. Government and its baseless justification, the question arises: What caused the United States to react this way?

Following the Islamic revolution the U.S. superpower was repeatedly disgraced by the Iranian people. The occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran because of its

espionage activities and the disgrace of the Reagan administration in the Irangate incident and its effects on American public opinion, especially its weakening of the position of George Bush, Reagan's vice president and the Republican Party's presidential candidate, are not incidents which Washington could easily forget. That is why the White House tries to obliterate the effects of these events by any means and with any action.

Meanwhile, part of the report of the Disarmament Conference which has been prepared by the chemical committee of the conference, is devoted to the manufacture and use of chemical weapons. On this subject Mr Ardakani said: The emphasis in this report on banning the manufacture and use of chemical weapons and other points could place some groups, even the U.S. Government, in an awkward position.

Further Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Premier

Meets With Musavi

LD2510191188 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Budapest political, economic and cultural ties was discussed Tuesday at the first round of talks between Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his Hungarian counterpart Karoly Grosz.

Grosz terming 'heroic' Iran's decision to accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 (in July) said tension in the sensitive Persian Gulf region has become a pretext for foreign forces to interfere.

Foreign forces should pull out from the Persian Gulf and only regional countries should maintain the security of shipping, he stressed.

The Hungarian prime minister described the progress of mutual economic ties during the last two years as 'remarkable' and announced his country's readiness to further cooperate with Iran in energy, defence industries and machine building in the post-war reconstruction phase.

Premier Musavi responded that Iran-Hungary ties were unaffected during wartime, and therefore, there is no reason why bilateral ties should not progress in peace time.

Adverting to the causes for imposition of a war against the Islamic republic, the premier termed it as U.S. plots in the region.

On Afghanistan, he said Iran believes the key to the existing crisis is formation of a non-aligned government which he said should have cordial relations with all neighbours.

Musavi concluded that the annual meetings of the two countries' joint committees can play a prominent part in expansion of bilateral relations.

Grosz leading a high ranking delegation arrived here today.

Musavi Hosts Banquet

LD2610062988 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a dinner banquet given in honour of the visiting Hungarian prime minister and communist party leader Karoly Grosz said Iran seeks lasting peace in the region. He said Iran wants the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

The premier addressing the Hungarian delegation which arrived here Tuesday said Iraq by raising excuses had hindered the peace process. "Only the 1975 accord provides a bases for solving the border disputes between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq," he stressed.

Iran seeks peaceful coexistence with all neighbouring countries and on this bases it is for expanding mutual relations.

He added that the Islamic Republic is against the arms race, and the production, storage and stationing of nuclear arms and production and deployment of chemical and biological weapons.

On Iran-Hungary relations, Musavi said both countries enjoyed common views on major international issues which is a good potential for promotion of political cooperation in international circles.

He said great potentials existed especially in the fields of energy, food and heavy industries and scientific and technical cooperation.

In his address Hungarian Prime Minister Grosz praised Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution last July and said it was a source of delight that the resolution is in the process of implementation.

"Establishment of a ceasefire has significantly subsided tension in the Persian Gulf and is a valuable move for world peace," he added.

The visiting premier said his country works towards disarmament and improvement of international cooperation and is against oppression, apartheid and all forms of aggression.

Grosz stressed on Tehran-Budapest economic and political cooperation and called for for agreements to boost mutual economic, trade, scientific, technical and cultural relations.

Spanish Minister Meets With Majlis Speaker

LD2510182288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The Spanish industry and energy minister, now in Iran, at the head of a high-level economic delegation, this afternoon met and talked with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker.

Offering the greetings of his country's leaders, the Spanish minister of industry and energy said: As you know, Spain has shown its good and friendly relations with the Islamic revolution of Iran and its efforts in various international scenes.

Referring to the fact that the Spanish Navy did not arrive in the Persian Gulf, he said: The government of Spain, independent of her allies, has maintained her policy and independent stances with regard to your country. He also stressed that his country was prepared to participate in the reconstruction effort.

Then, referring to the positive 10-year-old relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Spain, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our nation does not harbor any kind of negative feeling with regard to expansion of relations with you. The fact that Spain did not participate in the invasion of the NATO gang and that it adopted an independent stance will never be forgotten by our nation. Such a measure ranks as a positive and valuable act to us.

In conclusion, the Majlis speaker—referring to the historic presence of Islam in Spain—said: a number of the European countries now have problems with us because of the positions they adopted after the revolution toward our Islamic revolution; but such a problem does not exist in our nation as far as the expansion of relations with Spain is concerned.

Velayati Meets With Afghan Mujahidin Members

LD2510191288 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Members of Afghanistan's coalition council conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday.

The council's spokesman briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the trend of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan. He also expounded the latest political and international developments concerning his country.

Velayati terming the formation of the coalition council as "a promising turn" for Afghan people said the future will only be shaped through cooperation of Mujahidin and Afghan Muslims from various walks of life.

Regarding the rapid turn of events inside Afghanistan, Velayati told council members to play an active role in all areas in order to emerge successful.

Speaker Calls for International Islamic Body

LD2510122988 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today called for formation of an international assembly of Muslim 'ulema to run the affairs of Muslims and solve their differences.

The speaker's remarks came in the opening session of an Islamic conference marking unity week (Rabi' al-Awwal 12-17) here at Tehran University. The week has been initiated by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in a move to bring Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims closer together.

Sunni Muslims mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] on 12 Rabi' al-Awwal and Shi'ites commemorate the day on 17th of the same month in lunar calendar.

Some 700 Muslim scholars and theologians from Iran and several other countries are attending the unity conference, the second of its kind, to discuss ways and means for materialisation of Muslim unity.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Ayatollah Montazeri's proposal to hold the unity week as one solution to settle differences between Muslims. "We must take this opportunity very seriously to solve our problems," he stressed.

The Majlis speaker said practical steps must be taken to solve differences between Sunnis and Shi'ites. "We believe in Koran (the holy book) and must know that these differences are solvable."

He said to have a genuine Islamic party which the Koran describes as "Hezbollah" (or the Party of God) calls for abstaining from division and taking hostile positions (by religions) against each other. "The Muslim 'ulema must be pioneers in doing so," he urged.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also the country's military chief said full unity would be possible only when there were a united world view, a united objective, a united ideology and a united policy. In executive issues too, he said, united procedures must be adopted. "Of course, this is very difficult," he admitted.

Speaking about internal and external obstacles causing disunity among Muslims, he said the 'ulema must be patient and try to reach agreement on the birthday of the prophet (PBUH) or the first day of the fasting month of Ramadan as well as other issues of differences.

Of course, he said, there are outside factors contributing to the discord among Muslims. He added the foreigners are carefully watching "our differences and each day raise an issue to cause more disputes among Muslims."

On the significance of formation of an international assembly of "well-known Islamic figures" to solve the issues of Muslims, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the council could discover the "common points of the Muslims and strengthen them."

"It (the assembly) can mobilise the world Muslims for restoration of the rights of the Palestinian Muslims as well as on the issue of oil which is being plundered by arrogance today."

He however conceded that "it is difficult to form this assembly at the time being because, in most of the Islamic states arrogant agents are ruling." Nevertheless, he said, "if we succeed, outside political issues, in establishing a free center comprising committed Muslim 'ulema, they would be able to protect the interests of Islam with the backing of hundred of millions of Muslims."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the site of the assembly must be near the house of God from where it could issue its guidelines to Muslims.

The speaker criticized the lack of unity among Islamic states on political issues, including OPEC and stressed that the result of these differences have so far been the occupation of Palestine, the plundering of Muslims' oil and the domination of arrogance in Islamic countries.

"While the rights of millions of Muslims are being violated in non-Islamic countries, in Iran several thousand member minorities like Zoroastrians and Assyrians have their own representatives in the Majlis (Parliament)," he boasted.

In conclusion of his remarks, the speaker described Islamic Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, as "a major base of Islam to solve the problems of Muslims." He also expressed hopes the unity conference would be followed by executive steps for the fulfilment of its commitments.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Discussions

LD2510205088 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA--The Iranian oil minister today termed the recent joint discussions of two OPEC committees as "serious and clear cut" and said the practical result of the session depends on Iraq accepting the proposal of an equal oil export quota with Iran.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh addressing a press conference upon his return from Madrid, said all members of the OPEC pricing and long-term strategy committees have reached understanding on the organization's production ceiling, and the main issue is the production and export quotas of Iraq and Iran.

The two committees held meeting at the Algerian Embassy in Madrid last week.

He said the committees unanimously backed Iran's proposal that all OPEC members should be a party to an agreement because individual decisions could undermine the OPEC's decisions.

OPEC members are seriously concerned over the organisation's reputation, said Aqazadeh, adding that they are seeking a solution to this issue. All the twelve members of the organisation decisively want Iraq to observe the quota system, he made it clear.

Further elaborating on the Islamic Republic's proposal, he said Iran daily consumes some 700,000 barrels more than Iraq, and it is for OPEC to determine an equal exports quota for the two countries leaving aside their domestic needs. Therefore, Iran in view of its domestic needs should have a production quota of 700,000 BPD [barrels per day] than Iraq's.

Aqazadeh said the demand for OPEC oil will increase in the last quarter of the current year and in the first quarter of 1989, therefore, he said, determining of a reasonable production ceiling for OPEC would resolve most of the existing problems in the oil market.

The joint session of the two committees in Spain helped member states to exchange viewpoints on issues of the oil market, and the next session of the committees on 17 November—four days before the OPEC general session—would facilitate work of the OPEC ministers at the general session, Aqazadeh said.

The 81st OPEC meeting, held [date indistinct], 1987, determined 2.369 and 1.546 millions barrels per day as Iran's and Iraq's production quotas respectively, but Iraq, refusing to ink the agreement, has been producing between 1 million to 1.2 million barrels more since then.

President Khamene'i Continues Tour of Northwest

Addresses Sanandaj Gathering

LD2510123188 Tehran Domestic Serice in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, concluding his 3-day visit of Azarbayjan, arrived in Sanandaj at 0921 this morning, after leaving Orumiyeh. He was welcomed in Sanandaj airport by the imam's representative in Kordestan, the governor and the Friday prayer imams as well as the parliamentary deputies from that province. He was also warmly welcomed by the people of that province who had stood waiting for his arrival from the early hours of morning. Our correspondent reports in this connection:

[Correspondent] In an interview with our correspondent in the airport Khamene'i described the aim of his trip to Kordestan as meeting the Kurdish people, and said: Considering that this province is one which has been constantly under pressure by the enemy during the imposed war, and by the mini-groups—dependent on

world arrogance-during the revolution, I have come to this province to familiarize myself with the problems of this province and also to say to the officials: Well done! [passage omitted]

Our country's president this morning attended a glorious gathering of thousands of Sanandaj people who had gathered hours before in the sports stadium of that city in order to hear his remarks. In his speech he praised the selflessness and resilience of the Muslim people of Kordestan during the imposed war, and further he pointed to the complicated conspiracies of world arrogance aimed at sowing divisions in the people's ranks.

He said: Today, Kordestan after 10 years of struggle and resistance, has opened its arms to its beloved people and this is a source of great pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran—that it has prevented a strategic victory for the enemies of Islam. He added: World arrogance, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, tried to use all levers of pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of these levers was the intention to sow discord among the Shi'a and Sunni brothers on various pretexts, and to create divisions on ethnic and racial issues. This is while the Islamic Republic, from the very beginning obeying Islamic strictures, has viewed all Iranian people as equal, and considered them all to be members of the great family of the Islamic Republic.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then emphasized the importance of people's participation in reconstruction and analyzed the current situation in the country and the reconstruction policies. He urged people to be ready to participate extensively in the reconstruction of the country. He said: priority must be given to the damaged areas in reconstruction plans, and all the existing means in the region must be utilized [as heard].

The Central News Unit, Sanandaj

Calls for More Cooperation

LD2610090688 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Oct. 26, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i, on a tour of western provinces, has called for greater cooperation and coordination among executive, judicial, military and discplinary forces.

Speaking to gathering of provincial officials in Kordestan, the president said a distinction should be made between ordinary people and anti-revolutionaries. "In vetting people and judicial dealings it should be known that the warm people of Kordestan, despite threats and pressures from mercenary grouplets have always supported the Islamic Republic and have suffered a lot for it," Khamene'i said. He also called for more efforts to increase employment in the province.

SAIRI Chairman Says Office To Open in Syria

LD2510174788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], said in a news conference today: The representative office of SAIRI will be opened in Syria.

SAIRI Chairman Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim today in an all-media interview attended by local and foreign reporters, described the results of his visit to Syria and his talks with high-ranking officials of that country, as well as his meetings with Iraqi forces residing in Syria. He said that his latest visit to Syria was due to the consistent, steadfast Syrian position toward the Iraqi nation and that after the visit, the general framework was drawn up and is now being studied.

He added: We also met Iraqi refugees in Syria and forces opposed to Saddam's regime, and in the course of these meeting, SAIRI's positions were explained. We also had meetings with Lebanese brothers to bring our views closer together and in this connection, we achieved some positive results.

In describing SAIRI's new strategy, he said: This strategy takes note of political activities; these activities will consist of three parts: internally, the mobilization of Iraqi people; regional activities to expose the tyrannical nature of the Iraqi regime; and activities at the international level where the propaganda war prevented the oppressed voice of the Iraqi people from reaching international public opinion.

He also announced that the SAIRI will be opening a representative office, but the existence of that office will not mean that SAIRI forces will be transferred to that country.

Kurds on Hunger Strike at UNESCO Building

LD2510121188 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Paris, Oct. 25, IRNA—A group of Kurds on hunger strike in front of the Paris based UNESCO building are now in the fourth week of their strike in protest against Baghdad regime's genocidal chemical attacks on Iraqi Kurdish cities in northern Iraq.

The group of Kurds residing in Paris demand the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNICEF to take charge of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

In the past two months more than 100,000 Iraqi Kurds have fled their hometowns because of the Iraqi chemical attacks and sought asylum in Turkey and Iran.

The strikers are living in two tents in front of the UNESCO building to be protected from the cold weather, and demand the United Nations to adopt a clear stance against the Iraqi genocide of Kurds.

They are also calling for the trial of the Iraqi president in an international court for his violation of 1925 Geneva convention on banning of the chemical warfare.

According to the spokesman of the strikers, since the start of the strike on October 4th, eight of the strikers have been taken to hospital, one of them is still in hospital receiving medical care.

The spokesman added that anyone supporting the cause of the strikers can join in and added a French national has joined the strikers and is now in the fifth day of his strike.

Interviewed by IRNA the French National condemned the silence of French media towards the issue. The striker who wished to remain anonymous said that the reason for the silence is the French interests in Iraq.

French Minister of Humanitarian Actions Bernard Kouchner unexpectedly visited the strikers last Thursday. The strikers hope to get some of their demands and the minister has promised to raise the issue with French officials discuss it at the international conference on chemical warfare scheduled to be held in Paris January 7-11. [sentence as received]

UN Group Commander Visits Khuzestan Province

LD2510194788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Accompanied by a number of UN officers, General Kelly, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] arrived today in the province of Khuzestan to visit the Abadan and Khorramshahr regions and to inspect the situation of the peace-keeping forces in Khuzestan. With the commanders of the peace-keeping forces in these regions he examined issues related to these forces and to their work and duties.

Gen Kelly also visited Imam Khomeyni Port in Khuzestan Province, at which time the director-general of the Shipping and Ports Organization announced that the Imam Khomeyni Port now is ready to load and unload merchant ships.

Musavi Addresses Cooperatives Seminar

LD2310113188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0934 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi "last week" to a national seminar for development centers and consumer-producer cooperatives; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] You are undoubtedly aware that our Constitution clearly refers to the government, cooperative, and private sectors. Our economy has been structured so that the government, cooperative, and private sectors complement each other. [passage omitted] The banking system which serves the Islamic Republic and people today and which is out of the reach of the avarice of the big capitalists has given a special power to the government. It is one of the most important levers in the hands of the government which works to implement government policies in order to realize the Islamic Republic's goals for the people's benefit. [passage omitted]

However, there have been attempts in our society to create other systems which the government consistently opposes. We have to maintain our authority and independence from wealthy global capitalists. If we want to work toward realizing the goal his eminence the iman mentioned in his message—breaking up monopolies, the trade monopolies, and transferring control of them from the hands of few to all the people—we should act within the framework of the Constitution and curb the growth of such systems.

Of course, while the government is by no means opposed to Islamic interest-free loan funds, we believe that interest-free loan funds should be interest-free loans in a legal and judicial sense, and not for trade and other banking matters within our banking system. [passage omitted]

We have difficulties enforcing state control over prices. However, all in all, we must solve trivial matters so there is no need to expand this sector. I talked about this point at that glorious meeting [not further specified] that the government is not pursuing this issue and has not pursued this issue for quite some time now. If we are determined to break monopolies in society, we must create competition in various establishments at government level among various state-owned corporations and factories.

Indeed, we must have competition, freedom of action, and some continuity in our work. Rather than relying on monopolies and the amalgamation of corporations we must encourage a reasonable freedom of action among them. This would definitely accelerate economic growth and increase production and efficiency, as well as improve managemeny—all of which are in the interests of the country.

For this reason is we are trying to break up the centralized points in the government which give rise to monopolies. The units must have freedom of action both in their domestic operations as well as in external relations.

In foreign trade, apart from the fact that we must draw up a new course for the private sector and understand its relation with this issue, we must also work toward breaking up monopolies and centralism in these sectors and give consideration to revision. There must be continuity, comfort, and expansive distribution of labor [as heard]. All of this must be aimed at developing the government-owned sector of the economy. [passage omitted]

One of the debates in our revolutionary Majlis—whose members are devoted aware of current affairs—concerned the point that regarding relations with government-owned corporations, the government must have more freedom and resources in all areas such as actions, laws, regulations, transactions. Regulations which harden the position of government-owned corporations may well lead to catastrophe. In such circumstances corruption, silence, indifference to management, failure to attract talent, and the like may ensue. These are the problems we have in the state sector.

Of course, the government sector is geared to providing services to society, and not to making a profit as in the private or even cooperative sectors. For this reason we must find ways to use sectors and parts of the government sector which are now centralized for developing the country's whole economy.

When the government establishes infrastructure such as a steel mill or a railway, or builds a dam, it does not intend to profit from such an investment. Indeed, they may generate income but the main purpose is to build sound bases for all sectors throughout the country.

While the banking system today provides the government with very good tax revenues, this is not its purpose. We could have generated the same income from private banking. However, the role of banks in the country is important to us primarily within the context of our economic direction. The role of banks gains importance when they can help attain the goals set out in our Constitution. [passage omitted]

The public sector is an expanded sector and there is no need to further expand it. Regarding the industrial sector, we have been talking of selling off industries that have no strategic value. This has already been announced once or twice. We will then invest the money in strategic areas.

The main area of economic concentration is in services and trade. In the production sector we have not yet reached our goal. The country must encourage capital resources to move into productive areas. In doing this the government must employ all its resources, and the Majlis likewise. [passage omitted]

His holiness has often mentioned a guideline to which I must refer: While supporting freedom of trade, he has also attacked the concentration of commercial activities in the hands of a few. It is indeed a natural issue. These monopolies, these great powers, must be broken up in the interests of all the people. The vast masses of people must be given a chance to participate in these areas.

This is an idea which if we succeed in implementing—and it will need efforts at a nationwide level—will allow us to chart a new path for economic growth and attain the lofty objectives of the Islamic revolution.

We have a third sector, the cooperatives sector. I mention it after the public sector. Since the very beginning when the cooperatives sector began to take shape, it is and has been a private sector as far as its structure is concerned—despite propaganda to the contrary. However, it is a kind of private sector which is strongly supported by the government. I will state why the government supports it. The realization of this sector is close to the results to which the leader of the revolution referred in recent and previous messages.

If we look at the rules and regulations we see that it is not the government nor government capital which forms a cooperative; rather, cooperatives are set up by the people themselves because it is the people's power, labor, and small capital which combine to work together to bring about this sector.

In expanding the cooperatives we see a natural break-up of monopolies. Since the beginning of the revolution the main opposition to cooperatives has been from those who own monopolies, those who feel threatened by the expansion of cooperatives. [passage omitted]

A very important point is that in the Third World the financial monopolies, the wealthy and the capitalists—and this is contrary to what is said, that is, that their existence and their money are necessary for the purpose of investment—tend to use that money and that capital for luxury consumption and luxury goods. In general, that capital is either devoted to or invested in services and trade and is less likely to be used productively, or else it is directly used for building palaces and luxurious buildings, and for purchasing luxury goods.

At the moment, at the Foundation of the Oppressed large sums of money have been deposited in its account, handed over and entered into the books, and very expensive and luxurious items have been collected from the houses of Taqutis [perjorative term for supporters of the shah] and of the people affiliated with the monarchic regime and the United States. They spent their money on statues, expensive china, and various other luxury goods throughout the world—quite apart from those villas and palaces and many other things across the whole country. Some of it is completely useless except for the purposes for which it was intended.

That is the situation. We in the Third World can see in practice that it is those small sources of capital that are put to use and lead to principled investment. In our country, God be praised, both from the point of view of the Constitution and from the point of view of general tendencies and the banks' tendencies, good foundations have been laid. Following from the subject of large capital, it is appropriate to draw conclusions with reference to the cooperatives.

There are always discussions and debatesmin this area. One of the principle debates is over what Third World countries should do to eliminate poverty, more equitably

distribute wealth, and provide financial growth for our people. One solution says that the very growth of the gross national product [GNP], the growth of wealth, may also lead to the improvement of the people's living standards. Well, that thesis has been constantly publicized and worked on, and has been inflicted [elqa'i] on the Third World.

What sympathetic experts in the Third World have learned—a view which can be substantiated with facts and figures and which also can be substantiated in our own country—is this: If, in the course of any economic step, we do not take into consideration the question of social justice and the issue of more a equitable distribution of income, and if our policies are not infused with those values, then that step will lead to extensive financial and monetary monopolies in the country which will fundamentally and in the long term undoubtedly cause dependence on larger input of foreign capital and, inside the country, create divisions and strong income differential. It will lead to the accumulation of wealth in one section in a limited section of society, and the existence of deep trenches and valleys of poverty and need.

The reverse of that thesis—which has been discussed and is reliable, and to which the cooperatives themselves attest—is this: If we address the issue of the poor, the oppressed, the deprived, and the people in general, then the issue of the GNP will be resolved. In other words, if we begin from that point, we will witness a real growth of wealth in the country. We should not put the emphasis on the GNP and thus end up in certain situations to which I will refer.

The meaning of the first solution is this: If we strongly emphasize that our first goal should be more production in society whatever the cost and that this will raise people's standards by itself, this means that we are giving license to the thesis that generally, it is the capitalists who can invest because they have the ability to save. The oppressed classes, because their income is spent on the necessities of life, have no ability to save, and investment can only occur where there are savings.

Where, then, does this reasoning lead? It leads to a situation in which large amounts of capital will appear, a situation conducive to and even encouraging the emergence of monopolies, because on the basis of that reasoning, those monopolies can have savings for investment—investment in steel, in industry, in roadbuilding, and on other things. Well, that is one line of thought and in fact, it was publicized for a long time in this country during the shah's regime.

The issue of cooperatives—if we refer to the remarks of the eminent martyr and the dearest martyr, Beheshti—concerns the great hope placed in the power of labor, the power of labor with very little capital. If that hope is tested, analyzed, and examined in the long term, we will find that we can rely on that labor, that creative labor power. We can rely on small-scale capital, which can be invested in the country without our having to turn, for the sake of investment, to large financial, monetary, and trade monopolies. And they are forces (?upon which we can rely).

Perhaps at the beginning of the revolution, in the course of the revolution's work, people could not disagree with that idea. However, from an ideological point of view there was a great deal of practical opposition. That is one of the reasons for opposition to cooperatives. However, the passage of time has shown that we have had successful cooperatives. Clause 3 of the National Budget Bill—which has been in force for 3-4 years and says that if the government finds a good labor force, a good project, it can render assistance and, with the help of the banking system, release the money in the banks, we have money there, and put it at the disposal of human forces—is the type of mechanism by which we have the power to create economic growth, intelligent economic growth in the country.

Thus, there are solutions without needing to resort to creating high peaks of wealth in society which undoubtedly would exist alongside deep troughs of poverty. We can use our extensive labor power throughout the country and our entire nation for investment—even for big investments. We are just beginning. If we can organize well, we can achieve high levels of investment.

Here I will return to our own banking system, the Islamic system which gives us the ability to put those savings, capital, at the disposal of our extensive human force to create growth, economic growth combined with a more equitable distribution of wealth. Such growth will prevent the creation of large financial and monetary monopolies because control will be in the hands of the government. The government can regulate credit, decide what investments should be made or not made, and where it should be used.

I consider this a very important point in this seminar: We should take advantage of those resources that are at the disposal of the system, at the disposal of the government, at the disposal of the people in general for our use, and use these resources through the cooperatives, our highest goal. The cooperatives have the role to [word indistinct] and, from among the people, those who have small amounts of capital can invest with government help and build up their business. When their businesses expand they can repay their debts to the government and become independent units which can then grow even further.

What is good about such projects is that if you look at what cooperatives have done in Kerman, in Beyer-Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, in Khuzestan, in various places, you will see that if we had only (?concentrated) on financial and monetary monopolies—which the spirit of our Constitution opposes and to which the words of his eminence the imam clearly refer and say that they must be broken—they would never have had the inclination to invest and build a workshop in a certain part of Kerman, or a far-flung town of Hormozgan, or to do something else in some other place.

Of course, our cooperatives do have certain difficulties, certain problems, problems we must discuss and study in seminars just like this one and for which we must find solutions.

We should admit that we are still in the early stages of using government resources to expand cooperatives. This is a very important point. I think that if we think a little and if we plan, we may be able to find more adequate solutions.

At one time the idea was discussed in the cabinet of having a construction jihad composed of experts with various skills. We would not keep all of them in the barracks. They could receive limited military training and then be used by the Construction Jihad throughout the country for reconstruction and production. In the last 6 months or even the last year of their service, the second half of their service, they could be used in different parts of the country in the form of organized groups or cooperatives and companies; particularly if with our banking system we want to create jobs, employment, and production. At the same time as we resolve our conscription problem we can build up our country while using the financial resources and the extensive labor force at our disposal. There are certain areas in the country where there is no possibility of reconstruction except through this or similar methods.

We should try to plan for this. We should use our banking system for this. We should expand our laws, our regulations, and our thoughts in order to achieve the task at hand. More important than that, we should be clear about the fact that if such work has no economic value, it will be condemned to destruction. This is a basic principle.

Here I would like to make the point that cooperatives can continue to exist. We should bear this in mind in any plan we choose. We certainly cannot organize cooperatives in such a way that they are constantly needing services, financial, economic, and other services, without having any social or economic value. All the cooperatives which have continued in existence and which are vibrant are those which have had a strong economic viability. Therefore, their future is bright.

We believe it is possible to devise certain plans which can make use of the vast funds which people have entrusted to the banking system, either by depositing it or investing it in accordance with Islamic principles, and make use of those funds in organized plans, some of which will involve the fighters and the extensive numbers of unemployed which we shall be faced with after the war.

Another important point we must bear in mind is that the cooperatives are involved in a wide range of activities. While we should classify all these activities, we should produce extensive literature on this topic and present them and publicize them. Unfortunately, our work in this area is very weak and has stopped as far as any research and intellectual work is concerned; nothing is taking place in the this area. Nevertheless, we should make sure there is a link between such activities and research work and universities. [passage omitted]

The last point I wish to refer to in this meeting in the presence of the sisters and brothers is that the duty of this government, or any government in the Islamic Republic, is to support and defend the cooperative sector and its different branches in various parts of the country on the basis of the Constitution and on the basis of the need to destroy the monopolies to which his eminence the imam also referred. Of course, this is only one way [to destroy monopolies]; other methods should also be found so that we have a greater degree of social justice, a more equitable distribution of wealth; so that our deprived segments can grow in this way, and because in this way we can wage a constant battle against unemployment and create desirable employment throughout the country. No matter how we look at the cooperatives we see blessings and benefits in them.

This, of course, does not mean that we will prevent the activities of the government or private sectors. In the order of the Islamic Republic, all three sectors exist and are sanctioned; and the strength of each one of them depends on the fact that the others are strong and will compete against the other sectors. These three sectors should exist in our country in a strong and complementary fashion. When we refer to the government sector, we should bear in mind that the government sector does not occupy any special place in the eyes of the government. The government, the cabinet, and the government as a whole is like a father figure to all three sectors.

The government thinks of the national economy; it thinks of the whole country; it thinks of that which can bring about a transformation in the country. The gov ernment cannot have any special prejudices. Contrary to the view that the government may have a special interest in the government sector or that it may adopt a position against the private sector, I have never seen such an attitude in the cabinet. A government that is sincere, that serves, that thinks of the future of the country, and that thinks of all the people and overall issues cannot ignore its role as a father-figure to all these sectors.

In the government sector we may have a certain amount of corruption here and there, or a certain amount of weakness. In my view, the government acts with greater harshness toward the sectors affiliated with it than with other sectors where it may not have the same capabilities. Recently, the sisters and brothers have witnessed several examples of this. Generally speaking, the government cannot sacrifice the interests of the whole country for the sake of some inappropriate prejudices. As far as I can see, this is true of this government.

Let us look at our industrial sectors. We see that in heavy industry, in other industries, in mining—as far as the mining sector is concerned, as a rule we often recommend that ways should be found to employ greater forces

and increase small investments—I have noticed that the intention is to provide facilities for any useful work which may be carried out by any sector, to provide them with certain choices and prerogatives, so that those ventures are made productive. The large number of agreements made in principle are clear examples of this.

It seems that the cooperative sector does not have deep roots in our country and has not been strong and is a completely new experiment—not that it did not exist before the revolution; it did exist before the revolution, but it was not taken seriously and the Islamic Republic has paid a great deal of attention to it and has dealt with it in a strong way in our constitution to ensure that this sector is treated seriously. It is fitting at this seminar to mention some of the investments which have been made in this sector, and to stress the small scale of these investments compared with the investments in the government and private sector.

The media can compare and show that despite all the allegations made against the cooperatives, the cooperatives have received very, very small amounts of investment compared with the government and the private sector. We regard our cooperative sector as a popular sector of development: productive and commercial activities which attract greater number of forces. As a result, it has an antimonopoly character. Yet we see that the share of this sector in commerce, in production and development, is small compared with the more concentrated private sector. It is proper for our banking system and our government regulations and all our other organizations to support this sector and ensure its growth and development. [passage omitted]

Majlis Deputies Discuss Economic Program

PM2510164188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Oct 88 p 18

[Report on 13 October Majlis discussion of first economic, social, and cultural program]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh spoke in opposition to the program: The economic elements of this program are very weak and preliminary. There are a lot of generalizations and with this economic program you do not know if foreign investment is good or bad, if petrodollars are good or bad. Finally, what must we do? This bill in effect has pushed aside important social issues and I am very sorry to say that despite my love for planning I must vote against this plan. [passage omitted]

Gholamreza Fada'i spoke next in opposition: this plan, as the first 5-year economic program, is not basic. There are a lot of generalizations. There is no clear definition on the limits of ownership, which is a major issue in the country. Also, the issues of trade and cash flow and the methods for these have not been defined. [passage omitted]

Yadollah Eslami spoke against the plan: The general overview which the plan gives the economic situation is not repeated for cultural matters. The program is not clear on the direction of the country's culture. The cultural organizations have been ignored and there is no framework within which Islamic unity can be preserved. Another thing is that the program does not mention the country's defense or agriculture needs. This is why I oppose this program. [pasage omitted]

Kamaleddin Shahriyari said in opposition to the bill: We see that the plan talks about changing consumer tastes in terms of a strategic 15-to-25-year program. This means no conclusion has been reached. Here, there is talk of choosing the right technology, which means they never reached a conclusion in terms of a medium-term project. Why should we fit into our 5-year plans the goals of a 25-year plan? We know that one cannot change consumer tastes in 5 years, then why should it be included in the 5-year plan? Then the same thing will happen that happened in the 10 years since the revolution, which has caused an unfair distribution of income among the population. [passage omitted]

Gholam 'Ali Shahraki said in opposition: The goals outlined in this program are very good but where is the plan to show the quality of agriculture in 5 years, or the control of underground water reservoirs, the situation of higher learning or industry and the peoples' literacy program? They brought this plan to the Majlis at the beginning but, unfortunately, there were the same differences of views. We must have plans set according to a certain time, and this program does not answer the needs of our society. [passage omitted]

Mohammad 'Ali Shari'i added: The country will run whether we have programs or not and its budget will be organized. But if we do not have programs, there will be adverse results. On the other hand, our limitations in terms of politics and economy force us to have relations and commerce with the outside world. Keeping this mind, of course we need plans, but a strong plan that will solve problems.

What is certain is that this program must have five basic parts. First, it must have clear long-term goals, clear short-term goals, and clear plans. The second thing is that an overall policy must be separated into sections. The third point is that the policies and directions that make the plans possible must be defined and must depend on the reasons on which the programs are planned. The fifth point is to clarify priorities, because of the limitations that exist. This is why this particular bill will not meet these goals. [passage omitted]

Sadaqiyani spoke as the last deputy in opposition: This bill presented to the Majlis as the first program to expand economic and social issues does not contain any details on basic matters. The general goals outlined in the first part are all essentially mentioned in a much better and clearer way in the Constitution. It is not necessary for us to write

a law which is a rewritten version of the Constitution. The things that are mentioned here as goals and aims—the people of Iran have already voted on these in the Constitution. General issues are mentioned here which of course is fine such as reconstruction and defense capabilities. But how is this to be done? With how much money and when should it start? None of these points is raised in the plan. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views First 5-Year Economic Program

PM2510164388 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 88 p 15

[Editorial by M. Razazi: "First Program of Expansion, From Words to Action"]

[Text] The bill for the first program for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic yesterday went to the Majlis where preliminary discussions were started on the subject. This program has two sections and several chapters. What one must say about this program first of all is the uncertainty over the precise direction of the country's economy and its details. Generalizations and a lack of attention to detail have turned the 5-year program into a 5-year slogan. Bringing up subjects and issues which time and time again have been discussed by officials, which so far have remained in the form of words, cannot be considered a 5-year program, since the basic lines are unclear and not enough work has been done on them.

Please pay attention to the issued mentioned below which have been taken from the first and second part of this plan:

1. Maximum use of production, basic and manpower resources with greater emphasis on agriculture and the welfare of villages.
2. Creation and expansion of basic production capabilities to improve national production, with proper use of revenue from the sale of oil and non-oil products.
3. Strengthening of internal growth, stressing economic capabilities not related to oil exports.
4. Increasing quality of culture in society, especially for the younger generation, and expansion of science and technology.
5. Creation of economic growth aimed at increased national per capita production, increased employment and decrease in economic dependence, as well as control of inflation.
6. Efforts toward Islamic justice.
7. Correction of the country's organizations and management at various levels.

You must agree that the basic difference between these phrases and what has been said many times before is that these phrases are worded differently. This plan's budget has been arranged year by year, which means, for example, that for the efforts to achieve Islamic justice, a budget has put aside which must be met in 1 year.

In reality, there is no doubt that the execution of each of the plan's parts will result in a huge amount of confusion among those who are in charge of them. In the economic sector alone, there are dozens of questions that have to be answered in order to carry out only one part of the plan. For example, "maximum use of production, basic and manpower resources with greater emphasis on agriculture and the welfare of villages" is one point with various parts, none of which are clear in practice.

Should the country's resources be used toward industrialization? What kind of industry should we have and with what policy? The emphasis on agriculture—how far should this go? What type of agriculture did they have in mind? Do they mean mechanized agriculture? Do they mean agriculture in the service of industry? Do they mean agriculture in the service of exports or self-sufficiency and how must one stress agriculture?

Now you can see how far away these plans are from a correct economic program. Even then, we have yet to discuss the details on the various aspects of social and cultural matters.

By-Elections in 16 Cities Set for 29 Oct

LD2510113288 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Candidates have officially started campaigning in 16 cities where by-elections are to be held on Saturday, 29 Oct.

The Interior Ministry announced in all 111 candidates were fighting for seats.

The Council of Guardians had rejected April Majlis election results in Bandar-e 'Abbas, Aligudarz, Kuhdasht, Talesh, Darresh Gaz, and Gorgan. The credentials of the representative from Borujerd was also rejected in the Majlis, forcing a by-election.

The committee in charge of certifying the qualifications of the candiates studied 126 applications, approving 109 of them. After objections, 7 of the rejected names were reviewed and approved. Five later withdrew their application, leaving 111 candidates. Just over half of those who stood in the April elections did not renew their candidacy.

October 29 is a public holiday marking Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday.

Pakistan

2 Injured in Islamabad Supermarket Explosion

BK2410162388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The window panes of a few shops were damaged in an explosion in the Jinnah supermarket in Islamabad this evening. The explosive was placed in the bathroom under the stairs and another passage between the shop.

[sentence as heard] There was no loss of life. Two persons were injured from flying pieces of glass. They were discharged after receiving first aid.

Islamic Alliance Accuses Bhutto of Unfair Tactics

BK2210160088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 22 (AFP)—Pakistan's nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) on Saturday accused main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto of adopting unfair means to score victories in the November 16 general elections.

Ghafoor Ahmed, the IDA's secretary general, told a news conference that rival candidates were being "heavily bribed to retire" in favour of Ms. Bhutto and her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto. Both women lead the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), formed some 25 years ago by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who in March 1977 won Pakistan's first civilian election. Despite worldwide protests Mr. Bhutto was executed in April 1979 for the murder five years earlier of a political opponent.

The IDA, a coalition which includes ex-premier Mohammad Khan Junejo's Pakistan Muslim League, has emerged as the PPP's main challenger in the current election campaign.

Mr. Ghafoor, who also leads the right-wing Jamiat-i Islami party, said the PPP was "repeating the blunders" committed by Mr. Bhutto who, he alleged, used police to kidnap his 1977 opponent Jan Mohammad Abbasi. He claimed that PPP activists have attacked rival candidate meetings. He also accused them of a "murderous attempt" on an IDA leader, Liaquat Baluch, this past week in an incident that left three injured. "I have been requesting them (the PPP) to maintain peace so that elections be held impartially in a peaceful manner," he said.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Launch New Operation in Northeast

BK2610070388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The PKF [Peacekeeping Force] has launched a new operation in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka to assist the civil administration for the smooth conduct of provincial council elections in the eastern sector. The overall commander of the PKF, Lieutenant General A.S.Kalkat, told our correspondent in Trincomalee that the field commanders' conference held in Trincomalee today reviewed the situation for the new assignment. He said the ground situation is completely under control and normal political activities are on.

The elections to the provincial council in the three districts of eastern sector are to be held on the 19th of next month to elect 35 members. The EPRLF and the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress are contesting 10 seats in Trincomalee District, while the ruling United National Party joined the contest in Amparai and Batticaloa districts for the 25 seats. Our correspondent reports that the political parties have already intensified their campaigning.

Police Use Tear Gas To Quell Rioting Mobs

BK2510123488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1154 GMT 25 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—A mob estimated by police to be in the region of 600 gathered on the streets at Medawachiya 222 kilometers from Colombo, in Sri Lanka's Northcentral Province, at 0600 hours (local time) this morning and began a riot.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that the rioters had hurled stones and other missiles at the police who tried to restore order.

However, police were forced to use tear gas after three police constables were injured and two police jeeps were damaged.

Imposition of Curfew Successfully Averts Violence

BK2510125488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1204 GMT 25 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Government by the imposition of curfew in the Southern and Western Provinces, including Colombo, at midnight yesterday was successful in thwarting the plan of subversives to disrupt the law and order situation and the normal life of the community, kill individuals and force members of the public through pain of death to participate in acts of sabotage with a view to causing anarchy, official sources told LANKAPUVATH today.

The curfews in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara are due to be lifted at 1800 hours (local time) today while the curfew in the Southern Province is scheduled to be lifted at 0400 hours (local time) Wednesday, the sources said. They also said that the situation was calm and peaceful throughout the country today. A few isolated incidents were however reported in areas where the curfew was not in force.

Colombo Curfew Lifted

BK2510161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the curfew was lifted in Colombo and adjoining areas in the Western Province this morning while it continues in the Southern Province. Curfew was imposed in these areas following information that subversive elements might create trouble. During the day one postal worker was shot dead in Kandy and a

bank was looted in Matale area. Police burst teargas shells to disperse a group of demonstrators in Medawachiya in the Northcentral Province. No other incident was reported from the curfew bound areas. A high level meeting was held in Colombo to review the situation.

Meanwhile, with three more persons succumbing to their injuries, the death toll in yesterday's grenade attack at a UNP meeting in Colombo has gone up to 7; 39 others were injured in the attack.

In northeastern Sri Lanka, a member of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] was killed in an ambush by LTTE militants near Atchuveli in the Jaffna sector. In the ensuing exchange of fire one LTTE militant was grievously wounded.

In its continuing combing operations, the PKF apprehended 13 Tamil militants from Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa sectors.

Curfews Extended in South

BK2610053688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0450 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 26 (AFP)—The authorities extended curfews in southern Sri Lanka Wednesday [26 October] and placed heavily armed troops and riot police on maximum alert to prevent anti-government demonstrations, officials here said.

A 28-hour curfew in Southern Province due to be lifted early Wednesday was extended by a further eight hours, the government announced. The province is a hotbed of Sinhalese militant activity.

Officials said local curfews would be introduced in areas where the militant Sinhalese organisation the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) might stage protest strikes involving private sector and government workers.

"Troops have orders to shoot on sight anyone violating these local curfews. Thousands of security forces have been deployed at all vulnerable points," an official said.

State radio said the government had information that subversives may attempt to disrupt workplaces Wednesday after failing to stage a strike becuse of the curfew Tuesday. It said workers were being given maximum protection.

The government lifted a curfew in the capital after 18 hours Tuesday at 6.00 p.m. (1230 GMT), but kept troops and police on the streets manning check points at road blocks.

The JVP had planned a protest march for Tuesday, but the government responded quickly by clamping a curfew on the capital and surrounding areas from midnight (1830 GMT) Monday.

State radio said the curfew was a success. There were no reports of violations and the situation in the country was peaceful, it added.

The state announcement of the curfew coincided with a suspected JVP bomb attack on a ruling party office in Colombo's Kotahena District Monday which killed seven people and wounded at least 70, a military official here said.

In a statement Monday the government said it had information that "subversive elements" were planning to "kill individuals, destroy public property and attack security forces establishments under the guise of protests."

The JVP has staged successful nationwide strikes in the past two weeks triggering clashes with police and troops which have left at least 15 people dead. [passage omitted]